

A supporter of same-sex marriage protests with other demonstrators outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, March 27, 2013. The court returned to the subject of same-sex marriage for a second day Wednesday, when the justices heard arguments about the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) of 1996.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

## Justices seem poised to end federal marriage law

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**WASHINGTON** – The Supreme Court appeared ready Wednesday to strike down a central part of a federal law that defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman as a majority of the justices expressed reservations about the Defense of Marriage Act on the second day of intense arguments over the volatile issue of same-sex marriage. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who most likely holds the decisive vote, returned again and again to the

theme that deciding who is married is a matter for the states. The federal government, he said, should respect “the historic commitment of marriage and questions of the rights of children to the states.” That suggests that he is prepared to vote with the court’s four liberal members to strike down the part of the 1996 law that recognizes only the marriage of opposite-sex couples for more than 1,000 federal laws and programs. Such a ruling would deliver federal benefits to married

same-sex couples in the nine states, and the District of Columbia, that allow such unions. If the 1996 law stands, Kennedy said, “you are at real risk with running in conflict with what has always been the essence” of state power, which he said was to regulate marriage, divorce and custody. All four members of the court’s liberal wing questioned the constitutionality of the law, though they largely focused on equal protection principles rather than on the limits of federal power.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, for instance, said the law effectively created “two kinds of marriage: the full marriage and then this sort of skim-milk marriage.” Paul D. Clement, who served as solicitor general under President George W. Bush and is defending the law on behalf of House Republicans, argued that the federal government was entitled to use a uniform definition of marriage across the nation. Clement said that countless laws over time had been enacted with the tradition-

al definition of marriage in mind. When Congress approved the 1996 law, he said, it was worried that if one state extended the definition to include same-sex couples, it would effectively force other states and the federal government to recognize them, too. Lawmakers were concerned, he said, that “this is a redefinition of an age-old institution.” Justice Elena Kagan said there was something else at work.



# North Korea cuts last military hotline with Seoul

**HYUNG-JIN KIM**  
**Associated Press**

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — Raising tensions with South Korea yet again, North Korea cut its last military hotline with Seoul on Wednesday, saying there was no need to continue military communications between the countries in a situation "where a war may break out at any moment." The hotline — a dedicated telephone link between the two militaries — was used mainly to arrange for South Koreans who work at an industrial complex in the North to cross the heavily armed border. When the connection was last severed in 2009, some workers were stranded in the North. Normal direct telephone communications do not

exist between the two countries.

The shutdown of the hotline is the latest of many

threats and provocative actions from North Korea,



**A South Korean army K1 tank fires live rounds during an exercise at Seungjin Fire Training Field in mountainous Pocheon, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, Wednesday, March 27, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Yonhap, Lim Byung-shick)

## Record-breaking cyberattack hits anti-spam group

**RAPHAEL SATTER**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — A record-breaking cyberattack targeting an anti-spam watchdog group has sent ripples of disruption coursing across the Web, experts said Wednesday. Spamhaus, a site responsible for keeping ads for counterfeit Viagra and bogus weight-loss pills out of the world's inboxes, said it had been buffeted by the monster denial-of-service attack since mid-March, apparently from groups angry at being blacklisted by the Swiss-British group. "It is a small miracle that we're still online," Spamhaus researcher Vincent Hanna said.

Denial-of-service attacks overwhelm a server with traffic — like hundreds of letters being jammed through a mail slot at the same time. Security experts measure those attacks in bits of data per second. Recent cyberattacks — like the ones that caused persistent outages at U.S. banking sites late last year — have tended to peak at 100 billion bits per second. But the furious assault on Spamhaus has shattered the charts, clocking in at 300 billion bits per second, according to San Francisco-based CloudFlare Inc., which Spamhaus has enlisted to help it weather the attack.

"It was likely quite a bit more, but at some point measurement systems can't keep up," CloudFlare chief executive Matthew Prince wrote in an email.

Patrick Gilmore of Akamai Technologies said that was no understatement. "This attack is the largest that has been publicly disclosed, ever, in the history of the Internet," he said.

Gilmore said the attack's perpetrators had taken advantage of weaknesses in the Internet's infrastructure to trick thousands of servers into routing a torrent of junk traffic to Spamhaus every second.

which is angry over U.S.-South Korean military drills and recent U.N. sanctions punishing it for its Feb. 12 nuclear test.

A senior North Korean military official informed the South that all regular military dialogue and communications channels would remain cut until South Korea halts its "hostile acts" against the North.

North Korea recently also cut a Red Cross hotline with South Korea and another with the U.S.-led U.N. command at the border between the Koreas.

The link severed Wednesday has been essential in operating the last major symbol of inter-Korean cooperation: an industrial complex in the North that employs hundreds of workers from the South. It was used to arrange for cross-border shipments and for workers going north and returning to South Korea.

There was no immediate word about the impact on South Korean workers who were at the Kaesong industrial complex.

Outside North Korea, Pyongyang's actions are seen in part as an effort to spur dormant diplomatic talks to wrest outside aid, and to strengthen internal loyalty to young leader Kim Jong Un and build up his military credentials.

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## Cyprus: cash withdrawals capped at 300 euros

M. HADJICOSTIS

Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) —

Banks in Cyprus are to open for the first time in more than a week on Thursday, operating for six hours from noon (10:00 GMT), but restrictions will be in place on financial transactions to prevent people from draining their accounts.

Among the capital controls, cash withdrawals will be limited to 300 euros (\$383) per person each day. No checks will be cashed, although people will be able to deposit them in their accounts, according to a ministerial decree that was released late Thursday. The controls will be in place for four days.

Cyprus's banks were closed on March 16 as politicians scrambled to come up with a plan to raise 5.8 billion euros (\$7.5 billion) so the country would qualify for 10 billion euros (\$12.9 billion) in much-needed bailout loans for its collapsed banking sector. The deal was finally reached in Brussels early Monday, and imposes severe losses on deposits of over 100,000 euros in the country's two largest banks, Laiki and Bank of Cyprus.

Since Monday's deal, Cy-

priot authorities have been rushing to introduce measures to prevent a rush of euros out of the country's banks when they do reopen.

Other capital controls include a cap of 5,000 euros on transactions with other countries, provided the customer presents support-

1,000 euros in cash — as well as the equivalent sum in foreign currency.

Tuition fees and living expenses of up to 5,000 euros for three months will be permitted for overseas students, but documentation must be provided proving the student's relationship to the dispatcher.



**Russian millionaire businessman Andrey Dashin is seen at a balcony of his office in southern port city of Limassol, Cyprus, Wednesday, March 27, 2013. Dashin told the Associated Press in an interview that he doesn't believe his fellow countrymen would rush to pull businesses or money out of the country once banks reopen, despite the fact that many will take a hit from a tax on accounts over 100,000 euros in both Bank of Cyprus and Laiki bank.**

(AP Photo/Pavlos Vrioides)

ing documents. Payments above that amount will need special approval.

Travelers leaving the country won't be able to take with them anything over

Also investors will also not be able to terminate fixed-term deposit accounts before they mature unless the funds are to be used for the repayment of a loan in

the same bank, the decree says.

In the capital, Nicosia, armed police officers guarded several trucks carrying containers arriving at the country's Central Bank, while a helicopter hovered overhead.

The contents of the trucks could not be independently confirmed, although state-run television said they were carrying cash flown in from Frankfurt for the bank reopening.

Meanwhile, private security firm G4S will dispatch 180 of its staff to all bank branches across the island to keep a lid on any possible trouble, said John Argyrou, managing director of the firm's Cypriot arm.

Argyrou said he doesn't foresee any serious trouble unfolding once banks open their doors because people had time to "digest" what has transpired.

"There may be some isolated incidents, but it's in our culture to be civil and patient, so I don't expect anything serious."

Another 120 staff from G4S would be assigned money transportation duties.

In Nicosia Wednesday night, several hundred demonstrators marched from the European Union's

offices in the capital to Parliament to protest the bailout plan.

Before its collapse, Cyprus's banking sector grew to nearly eight times the size of the country's economy, mainly on the back of substantial deposits from Russia. This sparked accusations that the country was being used by Russian criminals to launder their money. Over the past week, the government in Moscow has criticized Europe's handling of the crisis in Cyprus.

Russian millionaire businessman Andrey Dashin told the Associated Press in an interview that he doesn't believe his fellow countrymen would rush to pull businesses or money out of the country once banks reopen, despite the fact that many will take a hit from a tax on accounts over 100,000 euros in both Bank of Cyprus and Laiki.

"There won't be a substantial Russian run" on Cypriot banks, said Dashin, 37, who runs his currency speculation company ForexTime from a brand-new high-rise in the southern coastal resort of Limassol. Dashin doesn't stand to lose on his deposits which aren't in either of the top two Cypriot banks. □





## Justices seem poised to end federal marriage law

Continued from front

"Do we really think Congress was doing this for uniformity reasons or do we think the Congress' judgment was infected by dislike, by animus, by fear?" she asked. She read a quote from the House record at the time the law was passed suggesting that lawmakers wanted to show "moral disapproval of homosexuality." Clement responded: "Of course the House report says that. I think if that's enough to invalidate the statute you should invalidate the statute. But that's never been enough." He

said that "just because a couple legislators may have had an improper motive" did not mean there was not a legitimate purpose to the law. The arguments came a day after another gay-marriage case was debated before the court, a challenge to California's Proposition 8, which bans such unions. That argument was murky and muddled, and many of the questions from the justices suggested that they were looking for a way to duck the central issue. By comparison, Wednesday's case was modest and the arguments

clear. The court heard a preliminary 50-minute session on threshold issues, but they did not seem to threaten to send the case off the rails.

The court appointed Vicki C. Jackson, a law professor at Harvard, to argue a position not fully supported by any party: that the case's odd procedural posture means the court lacks jurisdiction to decide it. The problem, she said, is that both sides want the same result. "There is not adversity," she said. "They are in agreement."

To be sure, there were some sharp questions.



**Ryan Toney, a student at The George Washington University, demonstrates with other supporters of same-sex marriage outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, March 27, 2013.**  
(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

"This is wholly unprecedented," Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. said of the odd way the case had reached the court. "You're asking us to do something we've never done before to reach this case."

"It's unusual," acknowledged Srikanth Srinivasan, a deputy solicitor general. "No, it's not unusual," Roberts said. "It's totally unprecedented."

After an appeals court struck down the challenged part of the law, the outcome the administration had urged, the Justice Department nonetheless appealed, saying the issue warranted an authoritative decision from the Supreme Court.

Roberts and some of the other more conservative justices expressed irritation that the case was before them at all and said President Barack Obama's stance – to enforce the law but not defend it – contradicted itself.

"I don't see why he doesn't have the courage of his convictions" and not enforce the law if he thinks it is unconstitutional, the chief justice said.

There were also questions about whether House Re-

publicans had standing to defend the law. "Nobody is suggesting," Clement said, "that this is a best-practices situation." But there did not seem to be a consensus on the bench to avoid deciding the constitutionality of the law.

Dismissing the case on standing grounds would probably have the effect of letting stand the appeals court ruling that threw out the law. But while the conservative justices expressed skepticism that the court should be deciding the matter, Kennedy suggested there was an issue legitimately before them because "it seems to me there's injury here."

Wednesday's case, *United States v. Windsor*, No. 12-307, concerns two New York City women, Edith Windsor and Thea Clara Spyer, who married in 2007 in Canada. Spyer died in 2009, and Windsor inherited her property.

The 1996 law did not allow the Internal Revenue Service to treat Windsor as a surviving spouse, and she faced a tax bill of about \$360,000 that a spouse in an opposite-sex marriage would not have had to pay. □

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## Obama suggests immigration bill could pass by summer

**JULIE PACE**

**AP White House Correspondent**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama pressed for swift action on a sweeping immigration bill Wednesday, saying last-minute obstacles are “resolvable” and predicting Congress could pass historic legislation by the end of the summer.

In back-to-back interviews with Spanish-language television networks, Obama repeatedly voiced confidence in a bipartisan Senate group that appears to be on the cusp of unveiling a draft bill. And he said that while he is still prepared to step in with his own bill if talks break down, he doesn't expect that step to be necessary.

“If we have a bill introduced at the beginning of next month as these senators indicate it will be, then I'm confident that we can get it done certainly before the end of the summer,” Obama told Telemundo.

While overhauling America's patchwork immigration laws is a top second term priority for the president, he has ceded the negotiations almost entirely to Congress. He and his advisers have calcu-

lated that a bill crafted by Congress stands a better chance of winning Republican support than one overtly influenced by the president.

The president also spoke Wednesday with Univision. His interviews followed a citizenship ceremony conducted Monday at the White House where he

to drop their opposition to immigration reform, given that Hispanics overwhelmingly backed Obama. In an effort to keep Republicans at the negotiation

and holding businesses to tougher standards on verifying their workers are in the country legally.

But they're at odds over key issues. The Senate group wants the citizenship pathway to be contingent on securing the border, something Obama opposes. The president has also sidestepped the contentious guest-worker issue, which contributed to derailing immigration talks in 2007. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO have reached significant agreements on a new visa program that would bring up to 200,000 lower-skilled workers to the country each year. But they reached a stalemate Friday over wages for the workers, with the labor union pushing for higher wages than the chamber has agreed to so far.

Since then, talks have resumed and negotiators are “back on the right track,” Ana Avendano, a lead AFL-CIO negotiator, said Wednesday.

Avendano declined to offer specifics but said the chamber had moved off what she termed its insistence on “poverty-level wages” for the new workers. □



**President Barack Obama, accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden and Julia Pierson, left, speaks in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, March 27, 2013, after Biden administered the oath of office to Pierson as director of the U.S. Secret Service. Obama pressed for swift action on immigration Wednesday, saying last-minute obstacles are “resolvable.”**

**(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)**

In his interviews Wednesday, Obama tried to stay out of the prickly policy issues that remain unfinished in the Senate talks, though he said a split between business and labor on wages for new low-skilled workers was unlikely to “doom” the legislation.

“This is a resolvable issue,” he said.

pressed Congress to “finish the job” on immigration, an issue that has vexed Washington for years.

The president made little progress in overhauling fractured U.S. immigration laws in his first term, but he redoubled his efforts after winning re-election. The November contest also spurred some Republicans

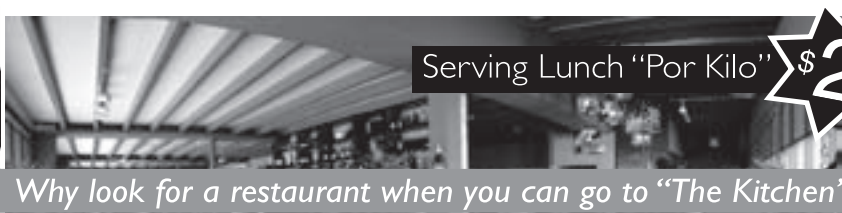
table, Obama has stayed relatively quiet on immigration over the last month.

Obama and the Senate working group are in agreement on some core principles, including a pathway to citizenship for most of the 11 million illegal immigrants already in America, revamping the legal immigration system



# THE KITCHEN

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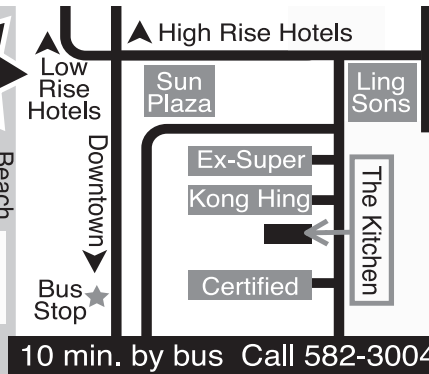


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## Theater massacre suspect Holmes offers guilty plea

**DAN ELLIOTT**  
**P. S. BANDA**  
**Associated Press**

**DENVER (AP)** — Colorado theater shooting suspect James Holmes has offered to plead guilty and serve the rest of his life in prison to avoid the death penalty — a deal that would bring a swift end to the sometimes wrenching courtroom battle and circumvent a prolonged debate over his sanity. Prosecutors haven't said whether they would accept the offer, and victims and survivors of last summer's massacre were divided on what should be done. Melisa Cowden, whose ex-husband was killed in the theater, said Wednesday she was resolutely opposed

to a plea deal. "He didn't give 12 people the chance to plea bargain and say, 'Let's see if you're going to shoot me or not,'" said Cowden, whose two teenage daughters were with their father when he was killed. "No. No plea bargain," she said. The attack during a crowded midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises" left a dozen people dead and 70 injured. Prosecutors have said Holmes planned the assault for months, casing the theater complex in the Denver suburb of Aurora, amassing a small arsenal and rigging potentially deadly boobytraps in his apartment. Then on July 20, he donned a police-style helmet and body armor, tossed a gas

canister into the theater crowd and opened fire, prosecutors said. The plea offer, made by Holmes' lawyers on his behalf earlier this month, was disclosed a defense court

filing on Wednesday. It was made public just days before the prosecution was set to announce whether they would seek the death penalty. The filing didn't include the

ment that would imprison Holmes for life. The years of court struggles ahead would likely be emotionally stressful for victims, he said. "I don't see his death bringing me peace," O'Farrell said. "To me, my prayer for him was that he would spend the rest of his life in prison and hopefully, in all those years he has left, he could find God and ask for forgiveness himself." Tom Sullivan, whose son Alex was killed, said he has wanted prosecutors to pursue the death penalty. But he said he wouldn't object to a plea agreement if it avoided a lengthy court battle — and if Holmes got no privileges in prison. "That was kind of a sore point with us," he said, referring to privileges such as outside exercise or listening to music. "We didn't think this kind of person should have any kind of privileges except the bare essentials." Holmes, a former graduate student at the University of Colorado, Denver, had seen a psychiatrist at the school before the shootings. □



Aurora theater shooting suspect James Holmes sits in the courtroom during his arraignment in Centennial, Colo. (AP Photo/RJ Sangosti)

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specifics of the offer. It said only that Holmes would agree to life in prison without parole — instead of the death penalty — and didn't mention any other concessions. Pierce O'Farrell, who was shot three times, said he would welcome an agree-

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# Ex-Florida Republican chief gets prison for theft



Jim Greer, the former chairman of the Republican Party of Florida, right, hugs his wife Lisa before being sentenced in court, Wednesday, March 27, 2013 in Orlando.

(AP Photo/Red Huber)

**MIKE SCHNEIDER**  
Associated Press

**ORLANDO, Florida (AP)** — The former chairman of the Republican Party of Florida was sentenced Wednesday to one-and-a-half years for stealing \$125,000 in party funds, completing the fall of a man who once was one of the most powerful political figures in the state.

It averted a trial that had threatened to expose the underbelly of Florida's dominant political party and its formerly high-

spending ways. Some of Florida's most powerful politicians were scheduled as witnesses, including former Gov. Charlie Crist, former U.S. Sen. George LeMieux, former Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum and several state House and state Senate leaders.

Topics covered in pretrial depositions included allegations of prostitutes at a state Republican fundraiser in the Bahamas, the drinking habits of Crist and intraparty strife.

Jim Greer was sentenced

in Orlando, more than a month after he pleaded guilty to four counts of theft and a single count of money laundering.

Circuit Judge Marc Lubet handed down a sentence that was less severe than the three-and-a-half years in prison requested by prosecutors. Lubet explained that he went with a more lenient sentence because Greer had agreed to pay restitution.

Prosecutors said Greer funneled almost \$200,000 to a company he had formed with his right-hand man, Delmar Johnson. He kept

\$125,000 of the money funneled to Victory Strategies for himself.

Johnson had been scheduled to be prosecutors' star witness and was granted immunity in exchange for his testimony.

Greer was vice mayor of the small central Florida town of Oviedo when Crist surprisingly picked him to be the state party chairman after he led local efforts to help Crist get elected governor in 2006. He previously was the president and CEO of a company that provides training to the hospitality industry

on how to comply with alcohol laws.

Until he entered his guilty pleas, Greer had contended that party leaders, including Crist, knew about the financial arrangement that gave Greer's company a cut of party money in exchange for fundraising efforts. Greer had said he was targeted because of his support for Crist, who later defected from the Republican Party to run as an independent for U.S. Senate but lost to Marco Rubio.

Crist denied ever knowing about the arrangement. □

## Hunters begin boycott over Colorado gun laws

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP)** — Hunters across the United States are boycotting Colorado because of recent legislation meant to curtail gun violence.

Michael Bane, a producer for The Outdoor Channel, announced he will no longer film his four shows in Colorado, and hunters are joining the protests.

Hunting outfitters say people began cancelling trips after the legislation passed, the Colorado Springs Gazette reported. The numbers are few, but growing. Colorado's governor signed bills this month that ban ammunition magazines that hold more than 15 rounds, and require background checks for private and online gun sales. Those new gun laws and others were drawn up in

response to mass killings at a suburban Denver movie theater and a Connecticut elementary school.

Northwest Colorado hunting guide Chris Jurney expects more state defections in a major tourism industry. Out-of-state hunters accounted for 15 percent of hunting licenses last year, 86,000, compared with 489,000 for residents.

"There's a united front of sportsmen that are tired of having their freedoms and liberties and fundamental rights taken away from them," said Jurney, vice president of the Colorado Outfitters Association. "That kind of unity among sportsmen is going to be big, and unfortunately for those of us who live here, we're going to suffer the consequences of this misguided legislation." □



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## New Mexico farmers push to be made a priority in drought

**FELICITY BARRINGER**

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**CARLSBAD, N.M.** — Just after the local water board announced this month that its farmers would get only one-tenth of their normal water allotment this year, Ronnie Walterscheid, 53, stood up and called on his elected representatives to declare a water war on their upstream neighbors. "It's always been about us giving up," Walterscheid said, to nods. "I say we push back hard right now." The drought-fueled anger of southeastern New Mexico's farmers and ranchers is boiling, and there is nowhere near enough water in the desiccated Pecos River to cool it down. Roswell, about 75 miles to the north, has somewhat more water available and so is the focus of intense resent-

ment here. Walterscheid and others believe that Roswell's artesian wells reduce Carlsbad's surface water.

For decades, the regional status quo meant the northerners pumped groundwater and the southerners piped surface water. Now, amid the worst drought on record, some in Carlsbad say they must upend the status quo to survive. They want to make what is known as a priority call on the Pecos River.

A priority call, an exceedingly rare maneuver, is the nuclear option in the world of water. Such a call would try to force the state to return to what had been the basic principle of water distribution in the West: The lands whose owners first used the water — in most cases farmland — get first

call on it in times of scarcity. Big industries can be losers; small farmers winners. The threat of such a move reflects the political impact of the droughts that are becoming the new normal

in the West.

"A call on the river is a call for a shakeout," explained Daniel McCool, a University of Utah political scientist and author of "River Republic: The Fall and Rise of

to cut off the oil and gas industry, because that's economic development. So we're left with a dilemma — the New Mexico water dilemma."

A priority call, said McCool, "will glaringly demonstrate how unfair, how anachronistic the whole water law edifice is."

He added, "The all-or-nothing dynamic of prior appropriation instantly sets up conflict. I get all of mine and you get nothing."

In 2012, parts of the riverbed were dry for 77 days, said Mike Hamman, the area manager for the federal Bureau of Reclamation in Albuquerque. In 2011, with the drought sending feed prices up, the Clovis Livestock auction house, the region's biggest, sold 144,000 head of cattle, 20 percent above average. "Some herds have sold out," said the president, Charlie Rogers. Most ranchers have reduced their herds to 25 percent of their previous size, he said. Hay, he said, costs too much. Higher prices, however, did not offset the losses that hay farmers like Mark Weems and Billy Grandi in Carlsbad suffered when they could not water their fields. Weems said he had to sell 22 acres to make payments on his farm and equipment. The buyer: an oil-related company that wanted the water rights. As for Brantley Lake, the nearest reservoir, "Two months ago it looked like you could drive a four-wheeler across it," Weems said. Grandi added, "If the drought continues, a lot of farmers will just have to sell out." □



**Brantley Dam tender Bill Berry stands at the edge of the Pecos River outside Carlsbad, N.M., March 12, 2013. With the river desiccated, some in southeastern New Mexico are trying to force the state to distribute water in a way that would allow most farmers to benefit over big industries.**

(Ivan Pierre Aguirre/The New York Times)

America's Rivers."

"It's not going to be farmers versus environmentalists or liberals versus conservatives," he said. "It's going to be the people who have water versus the people who don't." Dudley Jones, the manager for the Carlsbad Irrigation District, said that water law and allocation practice have long diverged. "We have it in the state constitution: First in time, first in right. But that's not how it's practiced." In New Mexico's political pecking order, his alfalfa farmers, despite senior priority rights dating back 100 years, have little clout. The state water authorities, he said, "are not going to cut out the city."

"They're not going to cut out the dairy industry," he added. "They're not going

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## Syria's Assad appeals to African BRICS summit for help

ALBERT AJI  
 BASSEM MROUE  
 Associated Press

**DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)** — Syria's increasingly isolated president sent a letter calling for help from leaders of five nations at an economic meeting Wednesday in

its sovereignty. Attempts to end Syria's 2-year-old conflict through peaceful means have failed to make progress. The opposition, including the main Syrian National Coalition, says it will accept nothing less than Assad's

forum, which was started in 2009 amid the economic meltdown to chart a new and more equitable world economic order. Assad said Syria is subjected to "acts of terrorism backed by Arab, regional and Western nations" and asked the leaders to "work for an immediate cessation of violence that would guarantee the success of the political solution." The opposition's ascension to the Arab League further demonstrated the extent of the regime's isolation two years into a civil war that the U.N. says has killed an estimated 70,000 people. In a further show of solidarity with anti-Assad forces,

the summit in Qatar endorsed the "right of each state" to provide the Syrian people and the rebel Free Syrian Army with "all necessary means to ... defend themselves, including military means." Following up on the endorsement, the Syrian National Coalition opened what it called its first embassy, raising its green, white and black rebel flag at different site from the now-closed Syrian Embassy in the Qatari capital. Key opposition figures looked on, including Ghasan Hitto, George Sabra and leader Mouaz al-Khatib, who recently said he was stepping down from his

post and criticized the international community for not doing enough to back the anti-Assad forces. Envoys from the U.S., Turkey, France and other nations that have backed the rebels also attended the ceremony. Many nations in the West, Arab world and elsewhere have declared the SNC the legitimate representative of the Syrian people and have effectively broken diplomatic ties with Assad's government. Al-Khatib criticized a decision by NATO not to use U.S. Patriot anti-missile batteries based in Turkey to help protect parts of northern Syria from attacks by Assad's military. □



Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in Durban, South Africa. Vladimir Putin is on a working visit and attended a meeting with the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRICS) during an Africa Dialogue Forum in Durban on Wednesday.  
 (AP Photo/RIA-Novosti, Alexei Druzhinin)

South Africa to help end his country's civil war. Bashar Assad's appeal to Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa came a day after the Arab League endorsed Syria's Western-backed opposition coalition, allowing it to take the country's seat at a summit in Doha, Qatar. The move drew strong condemnation from Damascus, which warned it will take "appropriate measures" to defend

departure from power while Assad's government has vowed to continue the battle until the rebel forces — which it refers to as terrorists — are crushed. "This requires a clear international will to dry up the sources of terrorism and stop its funding and arming," Assad said in the letter, which was carried by Syrian state media on Wednesday. It was addressed to the leaders at the BRICS



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# Egypt court challenges Morsi over top prosecutor

**SARAH EL DEEB**  
**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — An Egyptian appeals court on Wednesday annulled a presidential decree appointing the top prosecutor in a new challenge by the judiciary to Islamist President Mohamed Morsi that throws the country's legal system into confusion. The unprecedented verdict against the decree, which Morsi issued in November, brought to the surface how Egypt's stormy post-revolution transition has profoundly snarled the lines of authori-

ty and law, leaving unclear the boundaries between powers of the president and the judiciary and who has the ultimate say in interpreting a deeply disputed constitution. It also opens a new phase in the political fight between Morsi and his Islamist backers on one side and his mainly liberal and secular opponents on the other, a fight into which the judiciary has repeatedly been dragged in the past year. Morsi supporters say the judiciary remains in the control of supporters of the re-



**Prominent Egyptian blogger Alaa Abdel-Fattah is surrounded by supporters after his release from detention in Cairo, Egypt. Abdel-Fattah after refusing to cooperate with prosecutors into accusations he instigated violence against the country's most powerful Islamist group through comments posted on social media.**

(AP Photo/ Mostafa Darwish)

gime of ousted leader Hosni Mubarak, warning that they are seeking to derail the country's democratic transition and undermine the president's authority. Morsi's opponents say the elected president has continuously defied legal norms to force through his agenda and trampled on the judiciary's independence in a bid to consolidate his power. The courts are the sole branch of government not under the dominance of Morsi's Islamist allies, although he does have some backers. Most legal experts argued that the decision is effective immediately and that the top prosecutor must be removed. If not, the current prosecutor has no powers to issue arrest warrants or refer cases to court, bringing the country's legal system to a halt, said constitutional law professor Mohammed Hassanin Abdel-Al. "It is unprecedented in the history of Egypt to question the legitimacy of the top prosecutor," Abdel-Al said. "The president must correct the course." In a brief statement, the presidency said that it is waiting for the court to issue its reasons for the ruling before taking a decision. But Morsi's supporters insisted the verdict violates the constitution and is likely to be shot down on appeal. "This is an invalid ruling. It violates the constitution," said Abdel-Moneim Abdel-Maksoud, the legal adviser of the Muslim Brotherhood, the group from which Morsi hails. The dispute is rooted in a series of controversial decrees Morsi issued in November that sparked widespread protests. In them, he decreed that the prosecutor general could serve in office for only four years, with immediate effect on the post's holder at the time, Abdel-Meguid Mahmoud, who was in place since 2006. Morsi replaced Mahmoud with Talaat Abdullah, a career judge, and swiftly swore him in. At the same time, Morsi decreed that the judiciary could not reverse his decisions. □



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## Bomb explodes near Acropolis in central Athens

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — A bomb exploded outside a Greek ship owner's house near a crowded pedestrian area under the Acropolis in central Athens on Wednesday night, causing minor damage but no injuries, police said.

The explosion a few hundred meters from the country's most famous monument occurred at about 8:30 p.m. (1830 GMT), after a warning call to a Greek newspaper.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, which follows a string of bomb attacks in the financially-struggling country by anarchist

groups that have caused no major injuries or loss of life. Police spokesman Panagiotis Papapetropoulos said officers were able before the blast to evacuate one or two people from the building and to seal off the area.

"Judging by the minor extent of the damage, it can't have been a very strong explosive device," he said.

The house belongs to a member of the Tsakos ship owning family, police said. The blast, which was heard across the city center, occurred very close to one of the Greek capital's favorite pedestrian walks that

skirts the key tourist site of the Acropolis. At the time of the explosion, the walk-

austerity measures over the past three years to secure international bailouts



Police set up a cordon after a bomb exploded at the home of a Greek shipowner, opposite the Acropolis in central Athens on Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

(AP Photo/Dimitri Messinis)

way was busy with strolling families and tourists.

Greece is suffering an acute financial crisis, and imposed deeply resented

that are shielding it from bankruptcy. Domestic anarchist groups have carried out dozens of attacks on police and other sym-

bols of state authority or wealth in recent years, especially following the 2008 fatal police shooting of an Athens teenager and during the financial crisis.

The attacks have continued, albeit slightly abated, despite the arrests of more than 20 young Greeks accused of belonging to the most active group — Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire.

Earlier this month, militant anarchists claimed responsibility for a bombing at a package shipping firm in Athens, and threatened further attacks on judges, police and prosecution witnesses in a terrorism trial. In January, another such group planted a bomb in an Athens shopping mall that lightly wounded two security guards. □

## Mexican vigilantes seize town

**ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)** — Hundreds of armed vigilantes have taken control of a town on a major highway in the Pacific coast state of Guerrero, arresting local police officers and searching homes after a vigilante leader was killed. Several opened fire on a car of Mexican tourists headed to the beach for Easter week. Members of the area's self-described "community police" say more than 1,500 members of the force were stopping traffic Wednesday at improvised checkpoints in the town of Tierra Colorado, which sits the highway connecting Mexico City to Acapulco. They arrested 12 police and the former director of public security in the town after a leader of the state's vigilante movement was slain on Monday. A tourist heading to the beach with relatives was slightly wounded Tuesday after they refused to stop at a roadblock and vigilantes fired shots at the car, officials said.

The vigilantes accuse the

ex-security director of participating in the killing of vigilante leader Guadalupe Quinones Carbajal, 28, on behalf of local organized crime groups and dumping his body in a nearby town on Monday. They reported seizing several high-powered rifles from his car, and vigilantes were seen toting a number of sophisticated assault rifles on Wednesday, although it was not clear if all had been taken from the ex-security director's car. "We have besieged the municipality, because here criminals operate with impunity on broad daylight, in the view of municipal authorities.

We have detained the director of public security because he is involved with this criminals and he knows who killed our commander," said Bruno Placido Valerio, a spokesman for the vigilante group.

Placido said vigilantes had searched a number of homes in the town and seized drugs from some. □

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## Haiti replaces head of industrial park agency

**TRENTON DANIEL**  
**Associated Press**

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— The Haitian government has issued a presidential decree replacing the head of an agency that oversees a new industrial park that the U.S. invested in heavily after the Caribbean nation's 2010 earthquake. The office of President Michel Martelly announced Tuesday that he had issued a decree naming business owner Bernard Schettini the new director general of the government's National Society of Industrial Parks, which oversees the Caracol park in northern Haiti.

It did not say why it replaced former director Georges Sassine, a textile factory owner.

A U.S. State Department spokesman declined to comment on the change of directors. Schettini and Sassine also declined to comment.

The U.S. government has invested more than \$124 million in the \$300-million Caracol park. The project was in the works before the earthquake, and became a top priority for the Obama administration after the disaster that killed tens of thousands of people and displaced another 1 million. The agency's general director is charged with overseeing daily operations of the country's industrial parks and serves as secretary on a board of administration that also includes Haiti's ministers of finance and commerce



**Former U.S. President and UN special envoy to Haiti, Bill Clinton looks on during a visit to the Heineken/Brana Brewery S.A. in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.**  
 (AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

and its Central Bank governor.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

ton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton hosted an elaborate inauguration for the Caracol project in October. Those attending included American actors Sean Penn and Ben Stiller, British business magnate Richard Branson and fashion designer Donna Karan.

Backers say the project will transform the northern part of impoverished Haiti by creating about 65,000 jobs in the region. South Korean apparel giant Sae-A Trading Co. Ltd is the park's anchor tenant and enjoys duty-free status. □

## Turks & Caicos: Cruise terminal closes after outbreak

**PROVIDENCIALES, Turks & Caicos Islands (AP)**

— The tourist board in the Turks & Caicos Islands announced Tuesday that the cruise terminal on Grand Turk has been temporarily closed. Cruise lines starting cancelling port calls to Grand Turk on March 11 after passengers suffered from symptoms of gastroenteritis after visiting the Grand Turk Cruise Center in the British Caribbean territory.

In its Tuesday statement, the British territory's tourist board didn't say why or when the nearly 18-acre Grand Turk Cruise Center closed. Board Director Ralph Higgs said local authorities were addressing the problem and hoped to reopen the terminal soon. In Turks & Caicos, the general manager of the Grand Turk Cruise Center de-

clined comment and referred queries to Carnival Corp., which opened the terminal in 2006.

Carnival spokesman Vance Gulliksen said the Miami-based company was "investigating whether there may be a link with consumption of food and beverages while guests were ashore in Grand Turk."

Gulliksen said Carnival and other cruise lines cancelled port calls to Grand Turk to be cautious and are monitoring the situation while authorities try to determine the cause of the illness.

Various cruise lines rerouted their ships or extended their stays in ports in Puerto Rico, Bahamas and other locales.

A Florida-based spokesman for the cruise center said Tuesday afternoon

that numerous experts, working with local health officials, have been examining and testing food and water at the cruise terminal over the last two weeks.

"Multiple measures are currently being taken to ensure the quality of all food, water and sanitation systems going forward," spokesman Buck Banks wrote in an email. He said he works for a public relations company hired by the cruise terminal.

The Grand Turk Cruise Center declined to provide information about when the terminal closed to ships, but the terminal's port schedule listed no arrivals after March 13. The port includes a 45,000-square-foot shopping center, a big swimming pool and numerous food and beverage outlets. □



# SPECIAL

## First Course

CAJUN BEEF SALAD  
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 with a pink yoghurt cocktail sauce  
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 creamy garlic sauce with fresh mushrooms  
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## Second Course

SOUP OF THE DAY  
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## Third Course

STEAK DIANE  
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## The windy, 9th Wente Vineyards/Papiamento



### Restaurant Golf Tournament has its winners

David Pepin/Jerry Mattern are the 2013 winners of the ninth edition of the Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament.

They beat Wouter Werkema/Erik van Droogenbroek by 1 point in their effort to win the coveted grand prize, leaving behind the team of Raymond Freake/Patrick vd Donk who came in third place. The grand prize is a trip to the Wente Vineyards property in Livermore Valley, California – the prize includes a two night stay and a round of golf at a first-rate golf course surrounded by vineyards.

The tournament, which is organized by representative of Wente Vineyards, Arion Wine Company, is held in a two-men scramble format.

This means that each player hits a tee-shot and afterwards the team selects the best-positioned ball for the next shot. At holes 3, 7, 13, and 17 there was

the chance for personal glory for a Closest to the Pin winner. Participants of the tournament received a super golf cap at registration, a bottle of chilled Wente Vineyards wine to



keep them going throughout the day and a delicious bagged lunch courtesy of Papiamento Restaurant. Quite a few golfers still seemed a bit shaky after the terrific welcome cocktail reception at Papiamento Restaurant the day

before. Lunch, however, put some color back into their faces, as did the gale-

force wind.

For 4th-generation Eric Wente, on the island to play in 'his' tournament, the day was hot but great. "This is my favorite tournament of the year", he professed. An avid golfer himself, Eric

had been teamed up with Adriaan Slotboom; the team did very well indeed, finishing in 51st place. They excelled in the wine quiz, of course.

There were questions such as 'What lifestyle businesses does Wente Vineyards also

own and operate?' The answers were of course 'Vineyard Tasting Room and Es-

tate Tasting Room; The Golf Course at Wente Vineyards (Greg Norman designed); Wine Country Events Center; Summer Concert Series; and Catering Services. A beaming Eric handed out the prizes to the winners

during the superb soup buffet and prize giving ceremony, held on Tierra del Sol's outside patio. The setting sun beamed along as well.

Benefitting charity of the fundraising golf tournament 2013 is Koningin Wil-

helmina Fonds, which assists and supports cancer victims on the island. The

check of between 15.000 and 17.000 florins goes toward the transportation of cancer patients to the doctor, the hospital, to the oncologist and physiotherapy sessions.

Valued sponsors of the 2013 edition of the Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament at Tierra del Sol included American Airlines, Aruba Airport Authority, Aruba Bank, Riedel The Wine Glass Company, Crystal Casino, Fatum, Nagico Aruba NV, Plus Accountants, Robertson Fire Protection, Setar, Toyota Prius, Vertegenwoordiging van Nederland in Aruba, Oduber & Kan, Albo Aruba NV, Aruba Sotheby's International Realty, Complete Logistics, Total Cleaning, Elmar, Floramarket, Home and Nature, Paradera Park and Engysol.

The four closest to the pin winners of the 9th annual Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament are as follows: Nybia Kelly, Orlando Rasminj, Shirley Barrow and Liem van Ramshorst. □



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The project encompasses 124 whole-ownership units in three eight-story towers, all with 180° view of the Caribbean and just few steps from the beach. On-site amenities will include pools, snack-bar, mini market, landscaped sun-deck, fitness center, fullservice spa and concierge service. All owners receive a complementary membership in Preferred Residences, an optional luxury resort exchange program that offers owners "high-touch" exchange services and lifestyle benefits tailored especially for sophisticated affluent travellers.

Blue Residences location is just in front of The Bubali Bird Sanctuary, one of the biggest reservoirs on the island, and also within-walking distance to Palm Beach, home of the high-rise luxury hotels with a variety of water sports concessions, casinos, restaurants, bars and shops. The location is unequalled on the island!

The project is built in two phases. First phase of construction is well underway on the 5-acre (2 hectares) site, which includes 84 units in two eight-story towers scheduled for completion in winter 2013. Each of

these towers will contain 24 two-bedroom, two-bath units; 12 three-bedroom, three-bath units; 4 three-bedroom, four-bath duplex penthouses; and 2 five-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath duplex penthouses. A third tower and a second pool are planned for phase two, which will include 40 additional units. All units are provided with porcelain tiles, Italian kitchens, stainless steel appliances (stove, refrigerator, dishwasher and microwave), washer and dryer machines and assigned parking space.

Presales began in 2011 with only one tower, and, in a little over a year, 80% was sold, that's why the second tower was included as part of phase one. Now with 60% sold, the project has the structure of tower one completed, six of the eight-stories on tower two completed, 60% of the facade completed, and ready to start with installation of tiles and windows. Visit [www.bluearuba.com](http://www.bluearuba.com) or the sales office located inside the project. The office is open from Monday to Saturday, Sundays by appointment. Go to see the amazing view from your future unit. □

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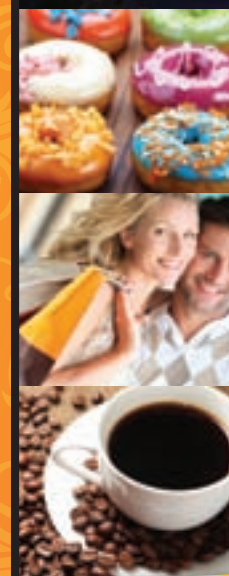
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## Good News Comes From The Blue Lobster Restaurant!



**PALM BEACH** - Owner of the Blue Lobster Restaurant Mr. Castano has good news for food lovers everywhere! He tells us the following:

"WE definitely as a new restaurant, making our debut in the culinary arena of this beautiful island, do understand and carefully listen to our patrons and follow the trends of the industry. Therefore we understand the momentum on each circumstance and we go along with such trends and circumstances.

Economy in the US has had its challenges in the last years and the amount of people and organizations affected by the hurricane in the area where most of Aruba's visitors are coming from, has made us too, seri-

ously look into how can we also be part of the recuperation; even though we are in Aruba, but feel solidarity with our clients.

So The Blue Lobster management has informed of a sound decision, the restaurant's menu is going back... Yes... Back to old good prices...the menu has been revised to honor the restaurant's motto: "Good Food, Good Service and Good Prices!" (See prices on [www.arubabluelobster.com](http://www.arubabluelobster.com)).

If all this was not enough, The Blue Lobster has added to its menu a great variety of new dishes to join the parade of spectacular food choices, including 16oz porterhouse steak, 15oz T-bone steak, 12 oz.

fillet mignon, 12 oz. sirloin steak, each prepared with love and mastery. What a treat for meat lovers!

But the Seafood Lovers' party has been enhanced too with new dishes which have been added to this section of the menu (something for everyone). So now seafood lovers can enjoy fresh red snapper fillet, the wonderful seafood platter, oven gratinated scallops, oyster soup (you must try

ways, plus the already famous Live Lobster prepared a la minute by the MICHELIN experienced chef Sandro. And the list goes on and on.... The Blue Lobster is your place for seafood... and prime choice USA meat as well now!

Taking into consideration family dining, Chef Sandro came up with a great kids menu. Parents can now enjoy their full dish, not having to share their main courses,

ues: We do care for our clientele and do understand difficult times need to be sorted out, and working together as a team it becomes easier, The Blue Lobster Restaurant has join forces with those who want to help others recuperating from less good times. The Blue Lobster is a winner of trip advisor's Certificate of Excellence 2012. A visit to this small but excellent restaurant while in Aruba is a must.

The Blue Lobster is going even further in this quest it was mentioned that some attractive promotions will be available for this season like: a full three course dinner (Yes.... Appetizer, main dish, desert ... and ... a bottle of house wine PER TABLE, just for 36.50PP (valid on Mondays, Wednesday's and Saturdays). Another great promotion is ... a nice free surprise for Birthday and anniversary celebrations! So all in all, lots of fun, good food, good prices, good service and the best culinary experience is just a few steps from the High rise hotels, more specific, at the Blue Lobster Restaurant, at Palm Beach 154A: See you there! □



this one) fresh wahoo, and Australian mussels - all this and more coming to make part of the already extensive menu. And not to forget, our menu also offers Lobster, superbly prepared in more than 18 different

and kids can have their own..... Yes and at excellent prices too, says Chef Sandro.

Patrons can now enjoy a nice and succulent lunch starting under ten bucks. German Castano contin-

## Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino contributes to 'Earth Hour'

**ORANJESTAD** - March- This is the second consecutive year that Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino contributes to 'Earth Hour' which is an worldwide event organized once a year by World Wide Fund of Nature (WWF). The goal of this event is to encourage households and businesses

to take action on climate change and global movement by turning off lights for one hour. Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino also joined in this event and contributed to the 'Earth Hour'.

Last Saturday from 8:30pm



till 9:30pm Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino turned off the lights of the parking lot in front of the government offices, all common light poles, parts of the Renaissance Marina Hotel façade, Renaissance Marketplace exterior lights, Renaissance Mall exterior

lights, Seaport Casino exterior lights and signs and also the Crystal Casino tower. "Renaissance Aruba Resort constantly supports activities that create awareness on importance of protecting our environment.

This year our community has shown much more in-

terest in the 'Earth Hour' and we are very happy to have been able to turn off the main lights of our resort and the area around our premises to contribute to this important cause", this according to marketing executives of the company; Zugheila Lindeborg, Edalitz Weller y Tirzane Williams. On pictures an impression

of the changes before and after the 'Earth Hour', a fascinating view to see an important landmark in Aruba contribute to such a noble cause.

Around the world cities turned off their landmark lights, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino also contributed to this worldwide event 'Earth Hour'. □







Mexico's Jesus Zavala, left, and United States' Geoffrey Cameron go for a header during a World Cup 2014 qualifying match at the Aztec stadium in Mexico City, Tuesday, March 26, 2013.

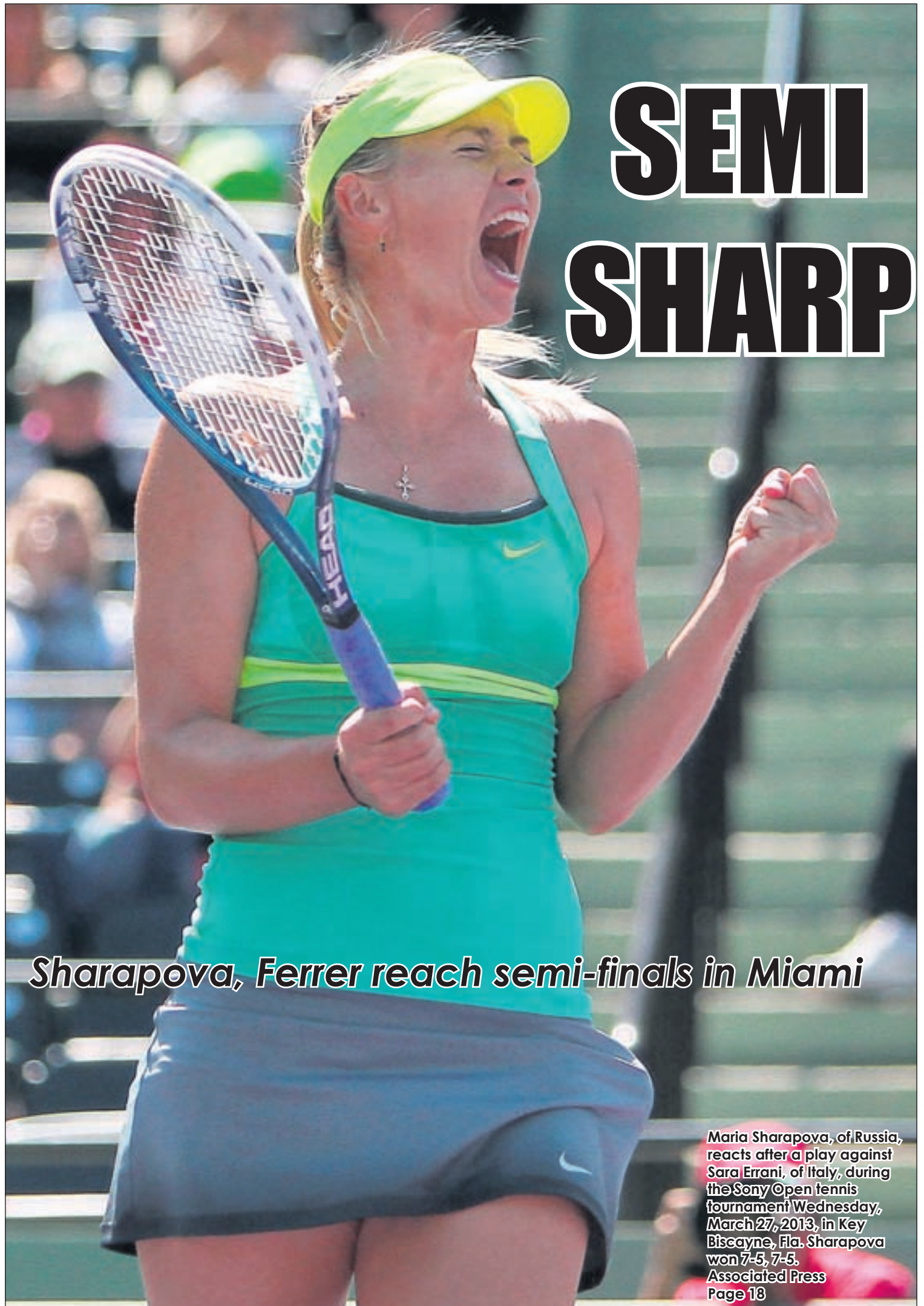
Associated Press

## Americans draw Mexico 0-0 in WCup qualifying

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The United States held on for a 0-0 draw with Mexico on Tuesday, earning only its second point in a World Cup qualifier at Azteca Stadium.

The draw moves the U.S. into third place in World Cup qualifying for the North and Central American and Caribbean region, one point behind Panama and behind Costa Rica on goal difference, which also has four points. "We wanted to win, but we are pleased with the result," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "They gave us everything they have." Mexico coach Manuel de la Torre is sure to come under fire after a third straight draw. El Tri had plenty of chances, but couldn't finish and were dismal on set pieces. Mexico had 15 corners, including three in the last two minutes of stoppage time as, and U.S. keeper Brad Guzan used his body to block the most dangerous one, by Angel Reyna.

Continued on page 19



# SEMI SHARP

## Sharapova, Ferrer reach semi-finals in Miami

Maria Sharapova, of Russia, reacts after a play against Sara Errani, of Italy, during the Sony Open tennis tournament Wednesday, March 27, 2013, in Key Biscayne, Fla. Sharapova won 7-5, 7-5. Associated Press Page 18



# Sharapova beats Errani in Sony Open quarters

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAIYNE, Florida (AP)

— The grunts were long and loud in the final game, as if Maria Sharapova was pushing a couch across nearby Crandon Beach. Trying to winning the Sony Open must feel that way to Sharapova, a four-time runner-up. She returned to the semifinals Wednesday despite a patchy performance, beating Sara Errani 7-5, 7-5.

Sharapova made 57 unforced errors, including 13 double-faults, and overcame three set points in the second set. The two sets took 2 1/2 hours, and a flurry of mistakes by both players left spectators groaning.



Maria Sharapova, of Russia, returns to Sara Errani, of Italy, during the quarterfinals of the Sony Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, March 27, 2013, in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Associated Press

completed match in 30 years when he upset three-time champion Novak Djokovic on Tuesday night. Sharapova faced Errani in a rematch of last year's French Open final, which Sharapova won to complete a career Grand Slam. But she has never won Key Biscayne, losing the final in 2005, '06, '11 and '12.

"I've been so close to winning," Sharapova said. "I would love to win this. I've been coming to this tournament since I was a little kid as a spectator. To be playing here, to be doing so well and getting to that stage, I sure hope I can go further this time."

The quarterfinal took place with the stadium half empty despite postcard weather. Attendance is down about 7 percent from last year, and promoters blame the absence of Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer.

Sharapova struggled with both her first and second serves, and in the second set she lost eight consecutive service points. While she and Errani waged a series of long, entertaining baseline rallies, both were also prone to blowing easy shots.

Sharapova's superior fire-power proved the difference. Serving at 4-5 in the second set, she saved three set points and held. Two games later she endured one final double-fault, then hit winners on the last two points.

Errani, seeded No. 8, fell to 0-26 against opponents ranked in the top five.

Sharapova has won 10 consecutive matches, all in straight sets. She won the Indian Wells championship this month and is bidding to become the third woman to claim that title and Key Biscayne in the same year. Steffi Graf did it in 1994 and 1996, and Kim Clijsters won both in 2005. □

Sharapova had the last laugh, whacking a fore-hand winner on match point.

"She really made me work for this match," Sharapova said. "I had to dig deep — so many opportunities, a few ups and downs. I'm definitely happy to get through another one."

Seeded No. 3, she'll play Thursday against the winner of the quarterfinal Wednesday night between No. 15-seeded Roberta Vinci and No. 22 Jelena Jankovic.

The men's quarterfinals featured eight Europeans for the first time, and in the opening match, No. 3 David Ferrer of Spain rallied past unseeded Jurgen Melzer of Austria, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0. Ferrer's opponent Friday will be the winner of the match Wednesday night between bracket buster Tommy Haas of Germany and No. 11 Gilles Simon of France.

The 34-year-old Haas became the oldest man to beat a No. 1 player in a

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Mexico's Jesus Zavala, left , tries a header as United States' goalkeeper Brad Guzan blocks him during a World Cup 2014 qualifying match at the Aztec stadium in Mexico City, Tuesday, March 26, 2013.

Associated Press

Azteca is one of the world's most imposing venues, and the Americans have a miserable track record there. They are 0-13-2 in World Cup qualifiers in Mexico, with their only other point — also from a 0-0 draw — coming in 1997. Mexico dominated possession, and Javier Aquino, Javier Hernandez and Jesus Zavala repeatedly tested the inexperienced American defense, picking on DaMarcus Beasley

in particular after he was shown a yellow card in the eighth minute. But defender Omar Gonzalez came up with one big play after another, and Matt Besler looked quite comfortable in the Azteca pressure-cooker. "The guys were outstanding," Klinsmann said. "Our back line, you know, many said they were inexperienced. They deserve a huge compliment. ...If one guy is not here, that's a

## Americans Mexico

Continued from page 17

huge opportunity to the next one stepping in, and I think the guys that stepped in here, they took their chance." Mexico blew numerous

chances, including what should have been a couple of easy goals for Hernandez. The Manchester United striker misplayed a bouncing corner kick in the 87th, getting only the back of his right foot on it. He pitched forward and into the net, but the ball popped skyward and over the goal. In

the 28th minute, Jorge Torres Nilo sent a perfect cross in to Chicharito, who was right in front of the goal, just a few feet from Guzan. But Hernandez skied that one, too. The United States never really challenged Mexican goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa. But their defense was strong enough. □

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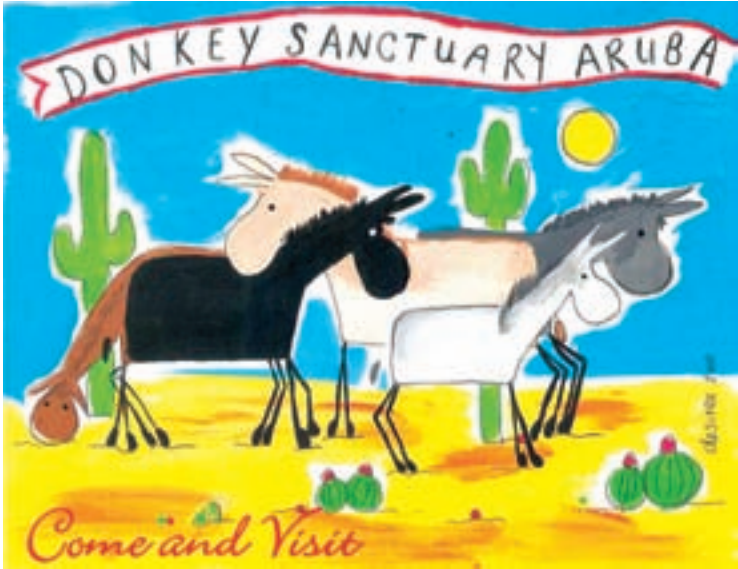
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# Happy Easter!

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# Penguins edge Canadiens 1-0 for 13th straight win

**The Associated Press**

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Sidney Crosby scored the game's only goal late in the second period as the Pittsburgh Penguins extended their winning streak to 13 with a 1-0 victory over Montreal on Tuesday night. **NHL Capsules** Pittsburgh goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury stopped all 22 shots he faced but did not play in the third period following a collision in front of the Penguins' net.

Tomas Vokoun filled in and made 15 saves to give Pittsburgh just the fourth combined shutout in franchise history.

Fleury appeared woozy after getting slammed into by teammate Tyler Kennedy and Montreal's Brian Gionta late in the second



Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby, left, celebrates his goal with right wing Pascal Dupuis (9) in the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Montreal Canadiens in Pittsburgh Tuesday, March 26, 2013.

period. He laid on the ice for a moment to collect himself, but did not come out of the dressing room for the third.

**Associated Press**

Carey Price made 24 saves for the Canadiens, but couldn't stop Montreal from losing consecutive games for the first time this season.

Crosby finally broke through in a tight game with 6:41 remaining in the second period, taking a long lead pass from Chris Kunitz then sending a wrist shot from the right circle over Price's right shoulder for his 15th goal of the season.

**RANGERS 5, FLYERS 2**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Rick Nash scored twice, Derek Stepan had a goal and three assists, and New York extended its dominance of Philadelphia.

Brad Richards and Chris Kreider also scored for New York, which has won 11 of the last 12 meetings with Philadelphia.

Rangers coach John Tortorella became the 30th coach in NHL history to reach 400 wins, and his team maintained its hold on the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference standings.

Wayne Simmonds and Jakub Voracek scored for Philadelphia, which lost for the third time in four games against New York this season and fell further out of the playoff race. The Flyers began the day in 13th place, five points behind the Rangers.

**CANUCKS 1, BLUE JACKETS 0, SO**

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)** — Cory Schneider stopped 17 shots and Maxim Lapierre scored the only goal in a shootout and Vancouver won its fifth straight by defeating Columbus.

Schneider only saw two shots in the first period, but stopped 15 in the final 45 minutes for his seventh career shutout, and third this season.

He stopped all three Columbus attempts in the shootout, including Matt Calvert's deke attempt to clinch the win.

The Canucks moved past Minnesota into third place in the Western Conference, regaining the Northwest Division lead, though the Wild have two games in hand.

Sergei Bobrovsky made 34 saves for Columbus, which lost its second in a row but is still on a 7-1-3 run.

**BLACKHAWKS 2, FLAMES 0**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Ray Emery made 16 saves for his first shutout in more than three years, defenseman Nick Leddy and Brent Seabrook scored, and Chicago snapped a two-game losing streak.

Emery improved to 12-0 in recording his 12th career shutout, and first since Feb. 1, 2010, when he blanked the Flames while with Philadelphia.

Emery was tested several times, but the Blackhawks outshot the Flames 35-16 in sending them to their 10th straight road loss (0-9-1).

**MAPLE LEAFS 3, PANTHERS 2**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Joffrey Lupul scored twice in the third period, and Ben Scrivens made 40 saves in Toronto's victory over Florida. Lupul scored on a power play 22 seconds into the third to put Toronto ahead 2-1.

Florida tied it 23 seconds later when Shawn Matthias banked in the puck off Leafs defenseman Mike Kostka, and Lupul brought the Air Canada Centre crowd to its feet again at 3:12 with his second of the game.

Lupul has six goals in four games since returning from a broken forearm. □



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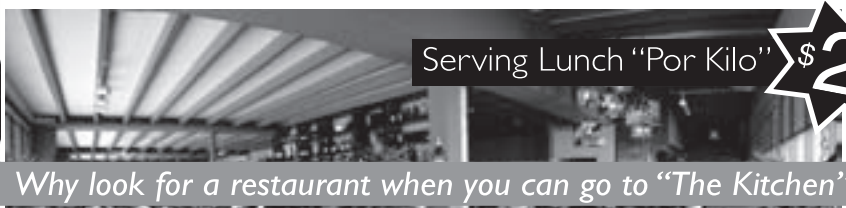
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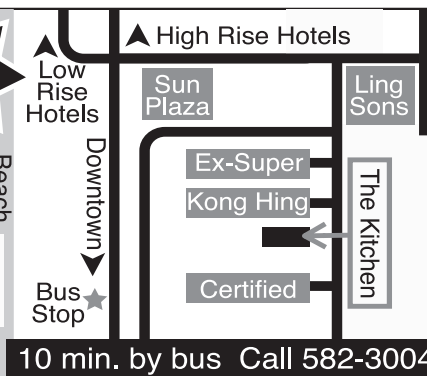


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New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony keeps the ball away from Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Tuesday, March 26, 2013. The Knicks won 100-85. Copyright 2013 The

Associated Press.

## J.R. Smith, Anthony lead Knicks over Celtics, 100-85

The Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — J.R. Smith scored 32 points, Carmelo Anthony added 29 and the New York Knicks extended their winning streak to five games with a 100-85 victory over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night.

**NBA Capsules** The win moved the Knicks into second place in the Eastern Conference, percentage points ahead of the Indiana Pacers. The Celtics, who could face the Knicks in the first round of the playoffs, lost their fifth game in a row and remained in seventh.

The Celtics, playing their second straight game without Kevin Garnett, were led by Jeff Green with 19 points and Paul Pierce with 16. But they committed 20

turnovers, while the Knicks, who average the fewest turnovers in the NBA, had just eight.

**TIMBERWOLVES 105, PISTONS 82**

**AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP)** — Nikola Pekovic had 18 points and 11 rebounds to lead Minnesota Timberwolves to a rare road win. The game matched one of the league's worst home teams against one of the worst on the road. The Pistons haven't won at home since before the All-Star break, losing seven straight, while Minnesota had lost 10 of its last 11 road games. Reserve J.J. Barea matched a season-best with 21 points for Minnesota, while Luke Ridnour scored 15 and Ricky Rubio added 14 points and nine

assists.

Greg Monroe had 11 points and 12 rebounds for Detroit, while point guard Jose Calderon scored 14 points but only had one assist.

**MAVERICKS 109, CLIPPERS 102, OT**

**DALLAS (AP)** — The Dallas Mavericks finally have a win over one of the top four teams headed to the Western Conference playoffs — just in time for their own postseason push.

Dirk Nowitzki had a season-high 33 points, including

the first eight for Dallas in overtime, and the Mavericks moved within a game of .500 for the first time since mid-December with a 109-102 victory against the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night.

More importantly for the Mavericks, they're just a game behind the Los Angeles Lakers for the final playoff spot in the West with 11 games remaining. They've won nine of their past 12 and improved to 1-11 against the top four teams in the West. □



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**Personal Health:**

# What causes preventable adult hearing loss?

**JANE E. BRODY**

© 2013 New York Times

Noise, not age, is the leading cause of hearing loss. Unless you take steps now to protect to your ears, sooner or later many of you – and your children – will have difficulty understanding even ordinary speech. Tens of millions of Americans, including 12 to 15

percent of school-age children, have permanent hearing loss caused by the everyday noise we take for granted as a fact of life.

"The sad truth is that many of us are responsible for our own hearing loss," writes Katherine Bouton in her new book, "Shouting Won't Help: Why I – and 50 Million Other Americans – Can't

Hear You." The cause, she explains, is "the noise we blithely subject ourselves to day after day."

While there are myriad regulations to protect people who work in noisy environments, there are relatively few governing repeated exposure to noise outside the workplace: portable music devices, rock concerts, hair dryers, sirens, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, vacuum cleaners, car alarms and countless other sources.

We live in a noisy world, and every year it seems to get noisier. Bouton notes that the noise level inside Allen Fieldhouse at the University of Kansas often exceeds that of a chain saw. After poor service, noise is the second leading complaint about restaurants. Proprietors believe people spend more on food and drink in bustling eateries, and many have created new venues or retrofitted old ones to maximize sound levels.

When I'm told about a new

restaurant, my first question is, "Is it noisy?" My friends and I will never return to one in which the racket makes it impossible to converse with tablemates. Perhaps the young diners the restaurateurs covet "talk" by texting.



**Tens of millions of Americans, including 12 to 15 percent of schoolchildren, have permanent hearing damage caused by everyday noise.**

(Yvetta Fedorova/The New York Times)

The ears are fragile instruments. When sound waves enter the ear, they cause the eardrum to vibrate. The vibrations are transmitted to the cochlea, in the inner ear, where fluid carries

them to neatly organized rows of hair cells. These in turn stimulate auditory nerve fibers, each attuned to a different frequency. These impulses travel via the auditory nerve to the brain, where they are interpreted as, say, words, music or an approaching vehicle. Damage to this delicate apparatus results from both volume and length of exposure to sound. Very loud noises, or chronic exposure to sound even when it is not particularly loud, can wreak havoc on hair cells, causing them to become disarranged and to degenerate.

We are born with a fixed number of hair cells; once they are dead, they cannot be replaced, and auditory sensitivity is permanently lost. Usually, sensitivity to high-frequency sounds is first to go, followed by an inability to hear the frequencies of speech.

Furthermore, the effects of noise exposure are cumulative, as Robert V. Harrison, an auditory specialist at the University of Toronto, noted recently in The International Journal of Pediatrics. Although we start out with a redundancy of hair cells, with repeated noisy insults, enough are destroyed to impair hearing. Thus, damage to hair cells incurred early in life, as has happened to many rock musicians and rock concert aficionados, can show up in midlife as difficulty understanding speech.

Sound volume is measured in decibels (dB), and the level at which noise can cause permanent hearing loss begins at about 85 dB, typical of a hair dryer, food processor or kitchen blender.

Dr. Michael D. Seidman, the director of otolaryngology at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital in Michigan, told me to use ear plugs when I dry my hair or mow my lawn with a gas-powered mower, and to cover my ears when an emergency vehicle passes with siren blasting. □

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|               | <p><b>STOKER</b></p> <p>Mia Wasikowska Nicole Kidman</p> <p><b>R</b></p> <p>Mon - Thurs 9:30<br/>Fri 9:30 / 11:45<br/>Sat 9:30 / 11:45<br/>Sun &amp; Hol 9:30</p>  |
| NEW THIS WEEK | <p><b>OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL</b></p> <p>James Franco Mila Kunis</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles <b>PG</b></p> <p>Mon - Thurs 3:15 / 6:00 / 8:45<br/>Fri 3:15 / 6:00 / 8:45<br/>Sat 3:15 / 6:00 / 8:45<br/>Sun &amp; Hol 3:15 / 6:00 / 8:45</p>  |
|               | <p><b>JACK THE GIANT SLAYER</b></p> <p>Nicholas Hoult Ewan McGregor</p> <p>3D Version <b>PG-13</b></p> <p>Mon - Thurs 2:00 / 4:05 / 6:30 / 9:00<br/>Fri 2:00 / 4:05 / 6:30 / 9:00 / 11:30<br/>Sat 2:00 / 4:05 / 6:30 / 9:00 / 11:30<br/>Sun &amp; Hol 2:00 / 4:05 / 6:30 / 9:00</p>  |

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# Review: Tablet-PC hybrids a study in trade-offs

**RYAN NAKASHIMA**  
**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Since Windows 8's debut in October, there have been a range of hot-looking devices that try to combine elements of tablets and traditional PCs. These hybrids seem as if they would be great both for relaxing with an e-book and for writing stories when I occasionally need to snap back into work mode.

But trying out three tablet-PC hybrids running Windows 8 has convinced me that the good old laptop still reigns for creating documents quickly and accurately. It's still superior for working at a desk, table, counter, or on your lap. And it has the best possible mix of battery life, processing power and compatibility with legacy software.

Unfortunately, where the hybrids worked well as tablets, they fared poorly as document-creators, or the other way around.

I don't think I'm alone in wanting a be-all, end-all machine that bridges the gap between tablets and PCs. The three hybrid computers that I tried didn't meet my needs. They show promise if you're willing to give up typing speed for something compact, or if you don't mind a heavy tablet that you'll have to look down at in your lap. Just be aware of these constraints before you buy. — Iconia W510 by Acer Inc. (\$750).

The white and metallic Iconia W510 is an instant attention-grabber with its slender profile and detachable screen, which on its own weighs less than an iPad, at 1.27 pounds (0.58 kilograms). In detached mode, small speakers on either side of the screen

create a muted, if tinny, stereo sound effect. It's a comfy couch companion when all I want to do is check email and watch Netflix videos.

Unfortunately, the W510's guts didn't match its pleasing exterior. Repeated software updates and spotty Wi-Fi connections led me to put the machine down in frustration at times. I wasn't able to diagnose the Wi-Fi problem fully, but other devices worked fine on my high-speed home network.

Videos played in fits and starts. I needed a half-hour session with a Netflix customer service rep to troubleshoot video issues, which were resolved by uninstalling and reloading two different programs. Xbox Music, which comes with Windows 8, repeatedly failed to go past a single song play when using the service's Smart DJ feature. This problem didn't occur with the other two machines I tested.

As a work tool, the W510 delivers on its promised ultra-long battery life of 18 hours when the keyboard is attached. I never managed to reach the limit in the course of a day when fully charged.

But there were plenty of quirks that detracted from that convenience. It took me several installations of Office, and a call to Microsoft representatives, to figure out that the computer was hiding the Office icons in an obscure part of the tile-based interface. Microsoft said this occurred because I switched my log-in details somewhere in the middle of the process.

After all that, I was able to set up and use the Outlook email program. Changes I made to Word and One-



**This photo taken Tuesday March 26, 2013 shows three hybrid computers running on Windows 8, from left to right, the Iconia W510 by Acer, the Yoga 13 by Lenovo and the Surface Pro by Microsoft, in Los Angeles.**

**Associated Press**

Note documents synced across several devices — one of the benefits of the latest version of Office, which is sold separately. But I found the W510's keyboard too small to type accurately and quickly, and the touchpad didn't accept two-finger swipe inputs like the other two. Most importantly, having to troubleshoot all the software issues and not being able to connect to the Internet consistently made the device too frustrating to use.

— Surface Pro by Microsoft Corp. (\$899, plus \$120 for Touch Cover with keyboard). The latest device from Microsoft is the epicenter of design Catch-22s.

It uses Intel's i5 processor so it can run a full version of Windows 8 well. But the chip gets hot and requires a fan for cooling. That adds bulk and a vent around the outer edge. All this means the Surface Pro is one-sixth of an inch thicker than the Surface RT, which runs a lightweight version of Windows 8 and can run only software designed for that system.

The Pro is also half a pound heavier at 2 pounds (0.91 kilograms). That may not sound like much, but if you hold it like a tablet, you'll definitely notice the bottom corners dig into your palms. For me, it's too heavy to be used comfortably as a tablet.

Then there's the detachable touch keyboard cover. What seemed like a clever invention for the RT seems downright flimsy on the heavier Pro. On your lap, using the keyboard is prone to error and is exasperating. It frequently needed to be detached and reconnected. Opting for the on-screen keyboard doesn't help much because it blocks your view of what you're doing. Because of these issues, Surface Pro works best when it is propped up on a flat surface with its kickstand and the keyboard lying flat in front of the screen. But if that's the case, I prefer a laptop with a bigger, more responsive keyboard.

I struggled to come up with reasons to use the pen that comes with Surface Pro. I scribbled some notes in

Word and OneNote documents, and my handwriting appeared when the changes were synced on other Windows computers. The writing even reflected the pressure I used, kind of like a paintbrush. But my handwriting didn't appear in mobile app versions of the software on Android or Apple's iOS devices. The one use I found for the pen was highlighting and commenting on objects in photos and sending them over email. Even though the pen doesn't require power, it attaches magnetically to the power port when the port isn't in use. That means there's nowhere to put it when the machine is charging. Don't be surprised if the Surface pen ends up going missing between sofa cushions.

— Yoga 13 by Lenovo Group Ltd. (\$1,300).

This device gets its acrobatic name because it can fold back on itself and transform into a tablet.

Although Yoga looks like a sleek laptop with rubberized coating, at 3.4 pounds, it's nowhere close to light enough to be used as a tablet. The 13-inch (33-centimeter) screen seems gargantuan when bent back in tablet mode. It's more than twice as heavy as a full-size, 10-inch (25-centimeter) iPad, and 4.5 times as heavy as Google's smaller, 7-inch screen tablet, the Nexus 7. Other than that, it works like a high-end laptop. The version of Yoga that is powered by Intel's i7 chip did everything I want a laptop to do. It has an easy-to-use keyboard and enough processing power to avoid lags using key programs such as Office. It also solidly connected over Wi-Fi to the Internet. □



## Signed contracts to buy US homes dips slightly

**M. CRUTSINGER**  
**AP Economics Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

Fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes in February, but the level stayed near a three-year high, and analysts believe sales of previously occupied homes will keep rising in the coming months.

The National Association of Realtors said Wednesday that its seasonally adjusted index for pending home sales dipped to 104.8 in February. That's down from January's reading of 105.2 — the highest since April 2010, when a homebuyer's tax credit was boosting sales.

Signed contracts are 8.4 percent higher than a year ago.

There is generally a one- to two-month lag between a signed contract and a completed sale.

In February, completed sales of previously occupied homes rose to a seasonally adjusted pace of 4.98 million, the fastest in more than three years. The gains in both signed

contracts and completed sales point to a housing recovery that is strengthening, although re-sales

more than six years after the housing market started to collapse. More people are also moving out on

0.4 percent in the Midwest and 0.1 percent in the West last month. They fell 2.5 percent in the Northeast and 0.3 percent in the South. One concern is that a shortage of available homes is limiting sales in many markets. More people are also starting to put their homes on the market, which could help sales in the coming months.

The Realtors' group last week said that the number of available homes for sale rose 10 percent last month, the first monthly gain since April. Even with the gain, the inventory of homes for sale was still 19 percent below a year ago.

A limited supply of homes for sale has helped drive prices higher.

U.S. home prices rose 8.1 percent for the 12 months that ended in January, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city index. That's the fastest annual pace since June 2006. Prices rose in all 20 cities surveyed and eight markets posted double digit gains. □



**A sale pending announcement sits atop a for sale sign in a home's yard in Richardson, Texas. Fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes in February, but the level stayed close to a nearly three-year high. The report suggests sales of previously occupied homes will keep rising in the coming months.**

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

remain below the 5.5 million that are consistent with healthy markets.

Steady hiring and near record-low mortgage rates have encouraged more Americans to buy homes

their own after living with friends and relatives in the recession. That's driving a big gain in apartment construction and also pushing up rents.

Pending home sales rose

## Prudential fined in failed AIG Asia bid

**DANICA KIRKA**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain's financial services regulator has fined insurer Prudential PLC 30 million pounds (\$45.5 million) and censured its chief executive, over the company's handling of a failed bid to acquire rival the Asian subsidiary of American International Group in 2010.

The fine from the Financial Services Authority centers on Prudential's ambitious attempt to buy AIA for 35.5 billion pounds, a bid that eventually collapsed after both parties failed to agree on a price.

The regulator said Prudential should have informed it of the deal when the two parties held a detailed meeting only weeks before news of the planned takeover emerged. The FSA also censured CEO Tidjane Thiam for playing a significant part in the decision not to contact the regulator.

"The FSA expects to have an open and frank relationship with the firms it supervises and with listed companies," the regulator said in a statement. "It is essential that firms give due consideration to their regulatory obligations at all times."

The FSA said it should have been informed of the deal because Prudential was planning to raise almost half the offer price — or 14.5 billion pounds — via a rights issue of shares. That would have been the biggest ever rights issue in the U.K., a development that could have affected confidence in the country's financial system.

Prudential said it regrets its failure to inform regulators. "The board has decided to settle this matter in the best interests of the group and all its stakeholders," Chairman Paul Manduca said in a statement. "We wish to draw a line under the matter, and to ensure our constructive relationship with our regulators remains good." □

## Judge approves American-US Airways merger

**SCOTT MAYEROWITZ**  
**AP Airlines Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — American Airlines won bankruptcy court approval Wednesday to combine with US Airways and form the world's biggest airline. "The merger is an excellent result. I don't think anybody disputes that," Judge Sean H. Lane said before issuing his decision.

The combined airline will have 6,700 daily flights and annual revenue of roughly \$40 billion.

The new American Airlines will fly slightly more passengers than United, the current No. 1.

It will be run by Doug Parker, the CEO of US Airways Group Inc., who began pursuing a merger shortly after American filed for bankruptcy protection in November 2011.

Lane declined, however, to approve a proposed \$20 million severance package for outgoing Ameri-

can CEO Tom Horton. The U.S. trustee had objected to the package and, while he didn't question the

said. The judge plans to issue a written decision at a later date detailing his reasoning.



**From left; US Airways Group Chairman and CEO Douglas Parker with American Airlines and AMR Corporation, Chairman, President and CEO Thomas Horton, and American Antitrust Institute Director and Vice President Diana Moss, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.**

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

amount, Lane agreed that the timing of it seemed to violate prohibitions in the bankruptcy law.

"Approving it today is just not appropriate," Lane

Horton has spent nearly his entire career at American, becoming CEO when the company filed for bankruptcy. Horton will cede the CEO position to Parker

when the deal closes, and has agreed to leave the company's board within a year of the closing date.

The proposed severance package includes \$19.9 million in cash and stock as well as a lifetime of free first-class tickets on American for Horton and his wife. Jack Butler, a lawyer with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, said he expects Horton to eventually get his payout.

Butler's firm represents American's creditors, who backed the merger and the payout for Horton.

Separately, Lane approved a motion to extend American's exclusive period for filing a reorganization plan until May 29, the last such extension allowed under law.

There is then a 60-day waiting period for creditors to object to the plan before Lane can sign off on American's emergence from bankruptcy protection. □



# Investors struggle to get past Europe's debt woes

**MATTHEW CRAFT**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Investors just can't get past Europe. Renewed worries about the region's debt crisis weighed on the Dow Jones industrial average on Wednesday, and held the Standard & Poor's 500 index back from reaching an all-time high.

Investors are watching to see if Cyprus can shore up its banking system. They are also concerned about Italy, where political parties are struggling to form a new government.

The Dow fell 33.49 points to close at 14,526.16, a loss of 0.2 percent. It dropped as many as 120 points in morning trading then spent the rest of the day climbing back.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 0.92 to 1,562.85, less than three points short of its all-time high set in October 2007.

Bad news from Europe and good news from the U.S. have tossed the stock market around over the past week. Stocks slumped Monday as Cyprus scrambled to rescue its banks. They rallied Tuesday on stronger home prices and a jump in factory orders.

"There are still plenty of worries about (Europe's) banking system," said J.J. Kinahan, chief derivatives strategist at TD Ameritrade. "But the U.S. really is on a nice little roll."

Kinahan said he thought

the S&P 500 could make another run at its record high on Thursday.

Cyprus is preparing to re-open its banks on Thursday after a nearly two-week shutdown. An international bailout requires people with large bank balances to help pay for the rescue. In Italy, a leading political party failed in its attempt to form a new government. The stalemate has raised fears that the country will be unable to manage its deep debts. Italy has the third-largest economy of the 17 countries that use the euro.

Worries also hit Europe's bond markets especially hard. Borrowing rates for Italy and Spain shot higher, a sign of weaker confidence in their financial health. Rates for Germany and France, two of Europe's more stable countries, sank as traders shifted money into their bonds.

In the U.S., the Nasdaq composite inched up 4.04 points, or 0.1 percent, to 3,256.52.

Four of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 index

edged higher. Utilities and health care, which investors tend to buy when they want to play it safe, made the biggest gains.



Trader Luke Scanlon rushes across the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Renewed worries about Europe's debt crisis held the Standard & Poor's 500 index back from reaching an all-time high.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Health care is the best performing industry in the S&P this year, up 14 percent. That compares with a 10 percent rise for the S&P 500. Kim Forrest, a senior equity analyst at Fort Pitt Capital, said it appears that many investors are treating cer-

tain stocks as if they were bonds.

"There's a recognition that bonds are overpriced, so people are moving into

healthcare and utilities that pay a nice dividend," she said. "Those are pretty boring investments, and by that I mean their prices don't move a lot."

News about Italy also helped drive traders into the safety of U.S. gov-

ernment bonds, pushing benchmark yields to their lowest level this month. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note dropped to 1.84 percent, a steep fall from 1.91 percent late Tuesday. The S&P 500 closed within three points of its record high of 1,565.15. The stock index hit that peak on Oct. 9, 2007, before the Great Recession and a financial crisis roiled financial markets.

Among other stocks making big moves:

— Cliffs Natural Resources, an iron ore mining company, plunged 14 percent, the biggest loss in the S&P 500. Analysts warned that falling iron ore prices would likely sink the company's stock. Cliffs fell \$2.97 to \$18.46.

— Science Applications International Corp. surged 5 percent after the security and communications technology provider reported a fourth-quarter profit that was better than analysts were expecting. SAIC also announced a special dividend of \$1 per share, and its stock gained 50 cents to \$13.32. □

## Heinz sets date for vote on company sale

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Shareholders of H.J. Heinz Co. will vote on April 30 whether to sell the ketchup maker to Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and 3G Capital for \$23.3 billion.

Heinz also said Wednesday that antitrust regulators approved the deal early, clearing one of the conditions

to completing the transaction.

Heinz shareholders will receive \$72.50 in cash for each share they own if the deal is approved.

Based on Pittsburgh-based Heinz's number of shares outstanding, the deal is worth \$23.3 billion.

Including debt, the deal is worth about \$28 billion.

Berkshire Hathaway Inc., based in Omaha, Nebraska, is putting up \$12.12 billion in return for half of the equity in Heinz, as well as \$8 billion of preferred shares that pay 9 percent. Brazil's 3G Capital will run Heinz. □

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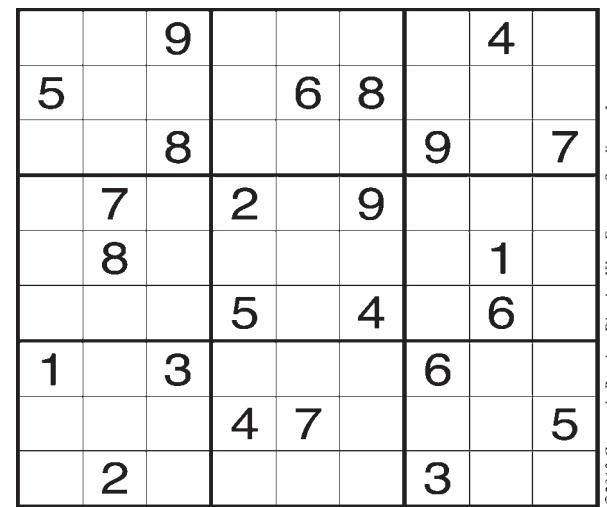
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3/28

|                           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| Yesterday's puzzle answer | 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
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|                           | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
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|    |                             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5  | Three-legged stand          | O | C | T | E | T | S | P | A | S | L | U | B | E |   |   |
| 6  | Foyt or Unser               | D | O | U | S | E | P | O | L | E | A | B | E | D |   |   |
| 7  | Mountain goat               | D | A | N | C | E | I | D | L | E | B | O | R | G |   |   |
| 8  | Flow's opposite             | S | T | E | A | M | E | R | S | M | O | R | A | L | E |   |
| 9  | Gentleman                   |   |   |   | P | I | N | E | R | E | B | A | T | E | S |   |
| 10 | Piles                       | I | N | T | E | N | T | A | I | D | E |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 | Birthday party dessert      | N | O | R |   | G | E | A | R | S | Y | O | K | E | L |   |
| 12 | Strong animals              | N | A | I | L |   | R | U | D | E | R |   | R | A | R | E |
| 13 | Spare __; item in the trunk | S | H | O | A | L |   | D | O | R | I | S |   | T | I | N |
| 19 | School composition          |   |   |   | T | A | P | I | R |   | D | E | P | E | N | D |
| 21 | Like fine wine              | A | R | S | E | N | I | O |   |   | H | E | R | E |   |   |
| 24 | Frosted                     | S | H | I | N | E | R |   | B | A | S | I | N | G | E | R |
| 25 | Pres. Chester               | C | I | T | E |   | A | L | A | N |   | A | T | O | N | E |
|    |                             | O | N | E | S |   | T | A | N | K |   | L | U | N | G | E |
|    |                             | T | O | S | S |   | E | D | D | Y |   | S | P | E | L | L |

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3/28/13

37 Passed away      49 Dating couple  
38 Bundle of hay      gossiped about  
40 Mexican mister    50 Gritty residue  
41 Female horse      52 \_\_ away;  
43 Seldom            galloped off  
44 High on drugs      53 Actor John \_\_  
46 Push               55 Find a sum  
47 Not in danger      56 Soothing drink  
48 Reddish purple    57 Give a name to

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Panel 2: RING! RING! RING!

Panel 3: RING! RING! RING!

Panel 4: MOM? IT'S ME. WHY AREN'T YOU PICKING UP? OH, WELL. HEY—GUESS WHAT I FOUND IN MY BACKPACK? LIKE, THREE OF OUR CORDLESS HANDSETS! ANYWAY, CALL ME BACK WH OH, WAIT...



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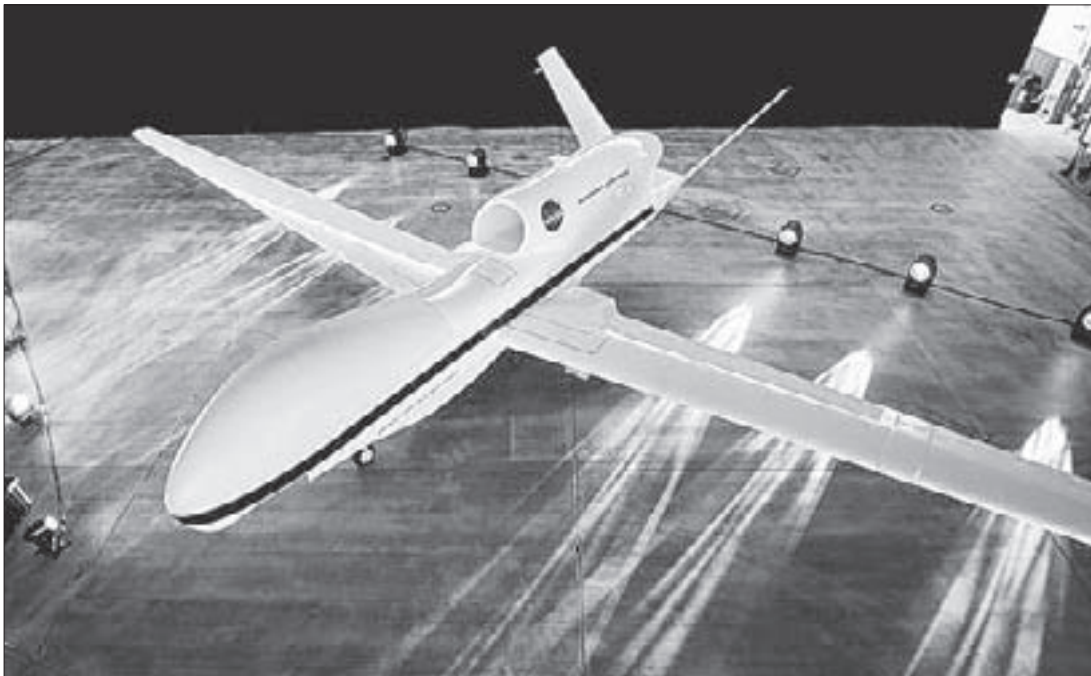
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# States answer help wanted ad to be drone test site



In this Jan. 15, 2009, file photo The Global Hawk, is unveiled at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Administration is looking for six sites to test drones before they are integrated into the civilian airspace. Fifty teams from 39 states have applied for the chance to boost their economies.

Associated Press

**ALICIA CHANG**  
AP Science Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — It's the land where Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier,

where the space shuttle fleet rolled off the assembly line and where the first private manned rocketship climbed to space.

Capitalizing on Southern California's aerospace fortunes, two rival groups want to add another laurel: drone test range.

They face crowded competition. In search of an economic boost, more than half the country is looking toward the sky — expected to be buzzing in the near future with pilotless aircraft.

Before that can become reality, the Federal Aviation Administration last month put out a call to test fly drones at half a dozen to-be-determined sites before they can share the same space as commercial jetliners, small aircraft and helicopters.

Fifty teams from 37 states answered, vying to win bragging rights as a hub for unmanned aerial vehicles. The military has long flown drones overseas to support troops, spy on enemies and fire missiles. There's a recent clamor to fly them domestically to track the health of crops, fight wildfires in remote terrain, conduct search and rescue after a disaster and perform other chores considered too "dirty, dull or dangerous" for pilots. The expanding use for drones comes amid concerns of a "Big Brother" society.

The untapped civilian market — estimated to be worth billions — has created a face-off, with states perfecting their pitch — ample restricted airspace, industry connections, academic partners — not unlike what you might read in a tourism brochure.

"It's the chance to get in on the ground floor of what may be the next big business," said Peter Singer, a robotics expert at the Brookings Institution think tank in Washington. "The states competing hope it might make them the robotics equivalent of Detroit for automobiles in the 20th century or Silicon Valley for computers."

Winners will play key roles in helping the government seamlessly transition drones, which are controlled remotely by joystick, into the civilian airspace without crashing into other planes or injuring bystanders.

Supporters of a Southern

California test site point to an existing drone presence. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc., based in the San Diego suburbs, makes the Predator that has circled over Iraq and Afghanistan. Just outside of downtown Los Angeles, AeroVironment introduced the world's first hummingbird spy plane and is developing other tiny drones inspired by biology.

"From start to finish, you can do your UAV work here," said John Rose of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, which co-sponsored a three-day drone conference this week in the Los Angeles area focused on civilian uses.

There are two competing California bids from airport agencies in Ventura County northwest of Los Angeles and Kern County in the Mojave Desert.

"If we are successful, it would be an economic stimulus for the region moving forward," said Bill Buratto of the Ventura County Economic Development Association, which is working with county airport officials on a plan to have drones fly from Point Mugu, the site of numerous Navy training exercises.

Their in-state competitor envisions test flights out of the high desert skies about 150 miles (240 kilometers) north of Los Angeles and touts its remoteness and access to military and civilian facilities currently doing drone research.

"You kind of want to be in the middle of nowhere. You don't want to risk being close to a populated area," said Eileen Shibley, who leads the effort for the Indian Wells Valley Airport District. Other states have taken a different tact, putting on a united front or partnering with a neighboring state to pool resources. Ohio — the home state of Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong, Mercury astronaut John Glenn and the Wright brothers — teamed with Indiana to increase both states' odds. □

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## Ford not 'yet' ready to talk 'Star Wars' sequels

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Harrison Ford isn't ready — "yet" — to talk about his reported part in Disney's planned "Star Wars" sequel, but he praises its director, J.J. Abrams.

"I think he's fantastic," Ford said in a recent interview. "I did his first movie, 'Regarding Henry,' with Mike Nichols. A wonderful talent. Extraordinary guy."

The 70-year-old actor — who came to fame playing Han Solo in the "Star Wars" trilogy — is shrugging off questions about that character while promoting his role as Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey in the upcoming Jackie Robinson film "42."

Asked how he feels gen-

erally that the "Star Wars" sequel and Disney spinoffs are in the works, Ford responded: "I don't feel anything at the moment yet."

In an article published earlier this month, "Star Wars" creator George Lucas told Bloomberg Businessweek that Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher had been in negotiations to return to the franchise even before Lucasfilm was sold to Disney last year.

Was Ford surprised by that announcement? He makes the universal zipping-my-lips sign. Asked what it will take to get him to commit to play Han Solo again, Ford said, "Um, I don't even want to discuss that. It's great. Ain't it great?"

It's been over two decades since Abrams wrote the



In this Saturday, March 23, 2013 photo, Harrison Ford, left, and Chadwick Boseman, cast members in the new film "42," pose together for a portrait, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"Regarding Henry" screenplay. Have the two chatted

recently?

"About what?" Ford asked,

smirking and taking a slow sip from a cup. □

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# Actress Ashley Judd won't run for U.S. Senate



In this Nov. 1, 2008 file photo, actress Ashley Judd, a Kentucky native, speaks at a Democratic get-out-the-vote rally in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

## FRANKFORT, Kentucky (AP)

— Actress Ashley Judd says she won't run for U.S. Senate in Kentucky against Republican Leader Mitch

McConnell.

Judd made the announcement in a Twitter message late Wednesday afternoon.

Judd had hinted last week that she was nearing a decision about the race.

The former Kentucky resident now living in suburban Nashville, Tennessee, has said little publicly about her intentions.

However, she has been meeting with several Democratic leaders, including Gov. Steve Beshear, to discuss a possible run.

Defeating McConnell would be the Democrats' biggest prize of the 2014 election.

His seat is one of 14 that Republicans are defending while Democrats try to hold onto 21. Democrats hope to retain or add to their 55-45 edge.

Judd has starred in several movies including "Kiss the Girls" and "Dolphin Tale." □

# Wachowskis to make sci-fi series for Netflix

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Netflix's newest original series will be science-fiction from the duo behind the "The Matrix" trilogy.

Netflix announced Wednesday that it will stream "Sense8" late next year for subscribers. The series is the first foray into television for Andy and Lana Wachowski, the filmmaking siblings who directed "The Matrix" and last year's "Cloud Atlas."

Netflix called the 10-episode series "a gripping global tale of minds linked and souls hunted." The show runner will be J. Michael Straczynski, creator of "Babylon 5," which aired for five seasons in the 1990s.



his Oct. 24, 2012 file photo shows Co-directors Lana Wachowski and Andy Wachowski at the Los Angeles premiere of "Cloud Atlas" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Netflix made its biggest splash with an original series last month with the debut of the political thriller "House of Cards," starring Kevin Spacey.

This spring, it will premiere the horror series "Hemlock Grove" and the re-born comedy "Arrested Development." □



This March 22, 2013 file photo shows Canadian singer Justin Bieber performing on stage in Zurich, Switzerland.

Associated Press

# Authorities: Neighbor claims battery by Bieber

**CALABASAS, California (AP)** — Deputies were investigating claims made Tuesday by a neighbor that Justin Bieber attacked and threatened him during an argument in suburban Los Angeles, authorities said. No one was arrested and few details were immediately available.

A representative of Bieber, Melissa Victor, did not immediately return a request for comment.

Online schedules indicate the "Baby" singer is in the midst of a European tour and performed a show in Poland on Monday night.

Authorities were called to the Calabasas scene just after 9 a.m., said Steve Whitmore, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

"There have been allegations made against Mr. Bieber of battery and making threats," Whitmore said. It's unclear who called authorities, and whether there might have been previous problems between the 19-year-old singer and neighbors, Whitmore said. In recent years, the Canadian singer has been constantly chased by paparazzi while publicly morphing

from an almost angelic mop-topped teen to an adult battling a bad boy image.

Recently, Bieber lashed out at paparazzi and lunged at one photographer as members of the singer's entourage held him back. Last summer, he got a speeding ticket while trying to avoid a bevy of photographers on a Los Angeles freeway in his distinctive chrome Fisker Karma.

He collapsed backstage during a recent London concert and canceled a performance in Portugal.

Prosecutors decided against filing charges after the pop star was accused of kicking and punching a photographer outside a Calabasas movie theater in May 2012.

Earlier this year, an ex-bodyguard sued Bieber for alleged assault and more than \$420,000 in unpaid wages. Moshe Benabou claims Bieber repeatedly punched him in the chest after an argument over the singer's entourage.

Lately, the slim singer has taken to whipping off his shirt in public places.

The investigation was first reported by TMZ.com. □

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## Courting Cowardice



MAUREEN DOWD  
© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON — As the arguments unfurled in Tuesday's case on same-sex marriage, the Supreme Court justices sounded more and more cranky.

Things were moving too fast for them.

How could the nine, cloistered behind velvety rose curtains, marble pillars and archaic customs, possibly assess the potential effects of gay marriage? They're not psychics, after all.

"Same-sex marriage is very new," Justice Samuel Alito whinged, noting that "it may turn out to be a good thing; it may turn out not to be a good thing." If the standard is that marriage always has to be "a good thing," would heterosexuals pass?

"But you want us to step in and render a decision," Alito continued, "based on an assessment of the effects of this institution which is newer than cellphones or the Internet? I mean, we do not have the ability to see the future."

Swing Justice Anthony Kennedy grumbled about "uncharted waters," and the fuddy-duddies seemed to be looking for excuses not to make a sweeping ruling. Their questions reflected a unanimous craven impulse: How do we get out of this? This court is plenty bold imposing bad decisions on the country, like anointing W. president or allowing unlimited money to flow covertly into campaigns. But given a chance to make a bold decision putting them on the right, and popular, side of history, they squirm.

"Same-sex couples have every other right," Chief Justice John Roberts said, sounding inane for a big brain. "It's just about the label in this case." He continued, "If you tell a child that somebody has to be their friend, I suppose you can force the child to say, 'This is my friend,' but it changes the definition of what it means to be a friend."

Donald Verrilli Jr., the U.S. solicitor general arguing on the side of same-sex marriage, told the justices, "There is a cost to waiting." He recalled that the argument by opponents of interracial marriage in *Loving v. Virginia* was to delay because "the social science is still uncertain about how biracial children will fare in this world."

The wisdom of the Warren court is reflected two miles away, where a biracial child is faring pretty well in his second term in the Oval Office. The American Academy of Pediatrics last week announced its support for same-sex marriage, citing

evidence that children of gays and lesbians do better when the couples marry. It may take another case, even another court, to legitimize same-sex marriage nationally, but the country has moved on. An ABC/Washington Post poll showed that 81 percent of Americans under 30 approve of gay marriage. Every time you blink, another lawmaker comes out of the closet on supporting the issue.

Charles Cooper, the lawyer for the proponents of Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage in California, was tied in knots, failing to articulate any harm that could come from gay marriage and admitting that no other form of discrimination against gay people was justified. His argument, that marriage should be reserved for those who procreate, is ludicrous. Sonia Sotomayor was married and didn't have kids. Clarence and Ginny Thomas did not have kids. Roberts' two kids are adopted. Should their marriages have been banned? What about George and Martha Washington? They only procreated a country.

As Justice Stephen Breyer pointed out to Cooper, "Couples that aren't gay but can't have children get married all the time."

Justice Elena Kagan wondered if Cooper thought couples over the age of 55 wanting to get married should be refused licenses. Straining to amuse, Justice Antonin Scalia chimed in: "I suppose we could have a questionnaire at the marriage desk when people come in to get the marriage — you know, 'Are you fertile or are you not fertile?'"

Scalia didn't elaborate on his comment in December at Princeton: "If we cannot have moral feeling against homosexuality, can we have it against murder?" Cooper replied that a 55-year-old man would still be fertile, which was a non sequitur, given that he hails marriage as a bulwark against "irresponsible procreative conduct outside of marriage."

He said that California should "hit the pause button" while "the experiment" of gay marriage matures. And he urged that we not refocus "the definition of marriage away from the raising of children and to the emotional needs and desires of adults." Did he miss the last few Me Decades?

The fusty legal discussion inside was a vivid contrast with the lusty rally outside. There were some offensive signs directed at gays, but the vibrant crowd was overwhelmingly pro same-sex marriage. One woman summed it up nicely in a placard: reading "Gays have the right to be as miserable as I make my husband."

The only emotional moment in court was when Kennedy brought up the possible "legal injury" to 40,000 children in California who live with same-sex parents. "They want their parents to have full recognition and full status," he told Cooper. "The voice of those children is important to this case, don't you think?"

While Alito can't see into the future, most Americans can. If this court doesn't reject bigotry, history will reject this court. □



## Caution, Curves Ahead In Syria



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
© 2013 New York Times

There are mounting reports that the United States is getting more deeply involved in supporting the Syrian rebels trying to topple President Bashar Assad. There is a strong argument for everyone doing more to end the Syrian civil war before the Syrian state totally collapses and before its sectarian venom and refugees further destabilize Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan. But I hope that before President Barack Obama gets more deeply involved in Syria, he gets satisfactory answers to the following questions:

The uprising against Assad began on March 15, 2011. His downfall has been predicted every month since.

Why has he been able to hold on so long? Russian and Iranian military aid certainly helps but so does the support he still enjoys in key communities. Assad's Alawite minority sect, which has been ruling since 1970 and constitutes 12 percent of Syria's 22 million population, believes that either they rule or they die at the hands of the country's Sunni Muslim majority (74 percent). The Syrian Christians, who are 10 percent, and some secular Sunni Muslims, particularly merchants, have also thrown in their lot with Assad, because they believe that either he rules or chaos does. None of them believe the rebels can or will build a stable, secular, multisectarian democracy in Assad's wake. Why

do we think they are wrong?

What are Qatar's and Saudi Arabia's goals? Are we to believe that these two archrival Wahhabi fundamentalist monarchies, the two main funders and arms suppliers of the Syrian uprising, are really both interested in creating a multisectarian, multiparty democracy in Syria, which they would not tolerate in their own countries?

Syria's rebels fall into three groups: those democrats who want to be free to be citizens in a country where everyone has the same rights; those who want to be free to be more Islamic; and those who want to be free to be more sectarian — to see Syria's Sunni majority oust the ruling Alawite minority. Who can reassure the Syrian Alawites or Christians that they will have a place in a post-Assad Syria, if the rebels can't get along with one another?

The Lebanese civil war burned for 14 years. It was finally settled with the 1989 Taif peace accord, based on the principle "no victor, no vanquished." It allowed Lebanon's Christian minority to be "overrepresented" to reassure them that their interests would be protected in a future Lebanon. Although the Christians made up probably 35 percent of the population, they were given a 50-50 split with Lebanese Muslims in the Parliament. One cannot expect Syria's Sunni majority, tens of thousands of whom have been slaughtered by Assad, to reach out overnight to the Alawites. In time, though, can we expect the rebels to guarantee a future for Alawites and Christians in Syria, which is the only way the state can remain intact? Or are we fine with the Alawites carving out their own homeland in Syria, the Sunnis taking the rest and the Christians moving to Canada?

The lesson of Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia and Libya is that the sooner you re-establish security, the more people are ready to think and act like citizens rather than sects or tribes. After Assad falls, who will mediate between the communi-

ties and militias inside Syria to bring order? Do we really believe that a post-Assad Syria, which doesn't seem to have a Nelson Mandela, will be able on its own to build a multisectarian government to rule the whole country without a well-armed, boots-on-the-ground international force, blessed by the U.N. or Arab League, to act as a referee? And who in the Milky Way Galaxy wants that job?

My bottom line: We know what kind of Syria we'd like to see emerge, and we have a good idea of the terrible costs of not achieving that and the war continuing. But I don't see a consensus inside Syria — or even inside the opposition — for the kind of multisectarian, democratic Syria to which we aspire. In this kind of situation, there are three basic options: We and some global coalition can invade Syria, as we did Iraq, sit on the parties and forge the kind of Syria we want.

But that hasn't succeeded in Iraq yet, at huge cost, and there is zero support for that in America. Forget it. We can try to contain the conflict by hardening Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel, wait for the Syrian parties to get exhausted and then try to forge a cease-fire/power-sharing deal. Or we can let the war take its course with the certainty of more terrible killings, the likelihood of its spreading to neighboring states and the possibility of its leading to the fracturing of Syria into Sunni, Alawite and Kurdish mini-states.

I'm dubious that just arming "nice" rebels will produce the Syria we want; it could, though, drag us in in ways we might not want. But if someone can make the case that arming the secular-nationalist rebels increases the chances of forcing Assad and the Russians into a settlement, and defeating the Islamists rebels after Assad falls, I'm ready to listen.

This is the problem from hell. Sometimes the necessary and desirable are impossible, which is why I commend the president on his caution, up to now. □



# Salvatore Ferragamo's Contemporary Style For The Modern Woman

## For Spring / Summer 2013

Spring Summer 2013 the Gancio Zip collection, a symbol of style with a contemporary feel, introduces a new bag that is already a must-have, the Verve. Created to express the bold personality of a woman living her day with verve and absolute dynamism, it is designed to be with her on every occasion.

An exclusive mix of refined lines and modern cuts, top quality hides and handmade stitching, the Verve has a soft trapezoid structure obtained by assembling the bag directly on the mold which allows its silhouette to always keep its original shape. Thanks to the functional tubular handles it can be carried on the arm or as a shoulder bag. Capacious and available in



three sizes, the Verve is closed by bold metal zippers enhancing the perfect combination of beauty and modernity, where aesthetic detailing, such as the Gancio, turn into functional elements.

This Spring Summer 2013 the firmness of the grained natural calfskin and the distinction of classic and neutral colors are paired with Palladium finishing. The combination of two materials, bicolor calfskin and exquisite exotic leather, give a refined finish. An ultimate masterpiece of craftsmanship is the new Verve Light, a deconstructed ultra soft and ultra light model. A harmonious combination of natural looking vegetable leather of the highest quality. This self-closing bag is fitted with a detachable pocket. Precious pieces from the Spring Summer 2013 collection can be found in the Salvatore Ferragamo boutique in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, walking distance from all the high rise hotels in Palm Beach. □